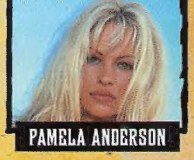
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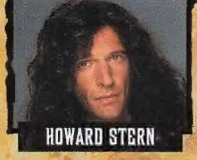
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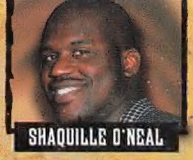
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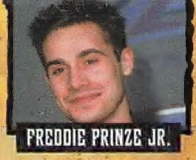
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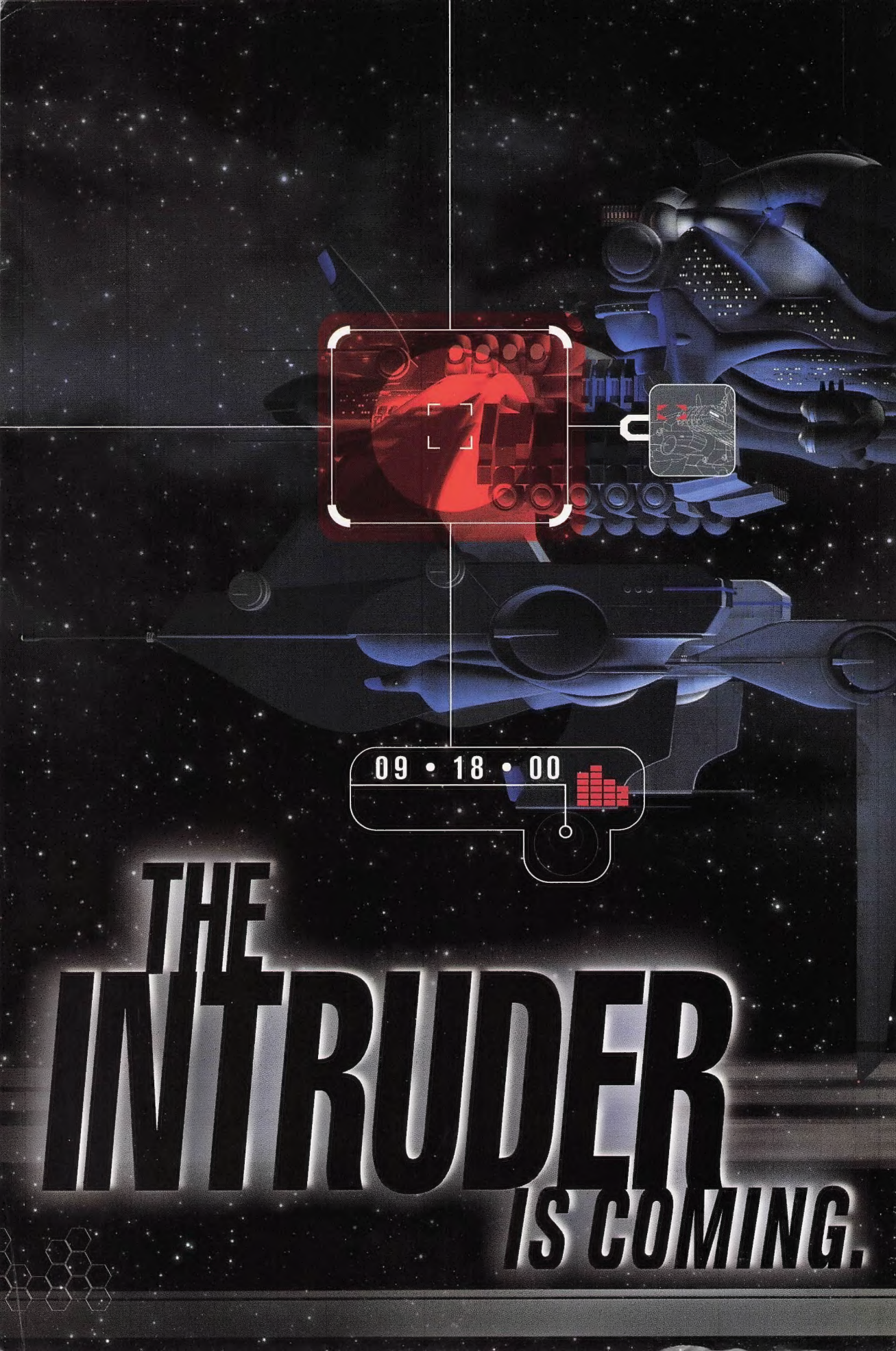
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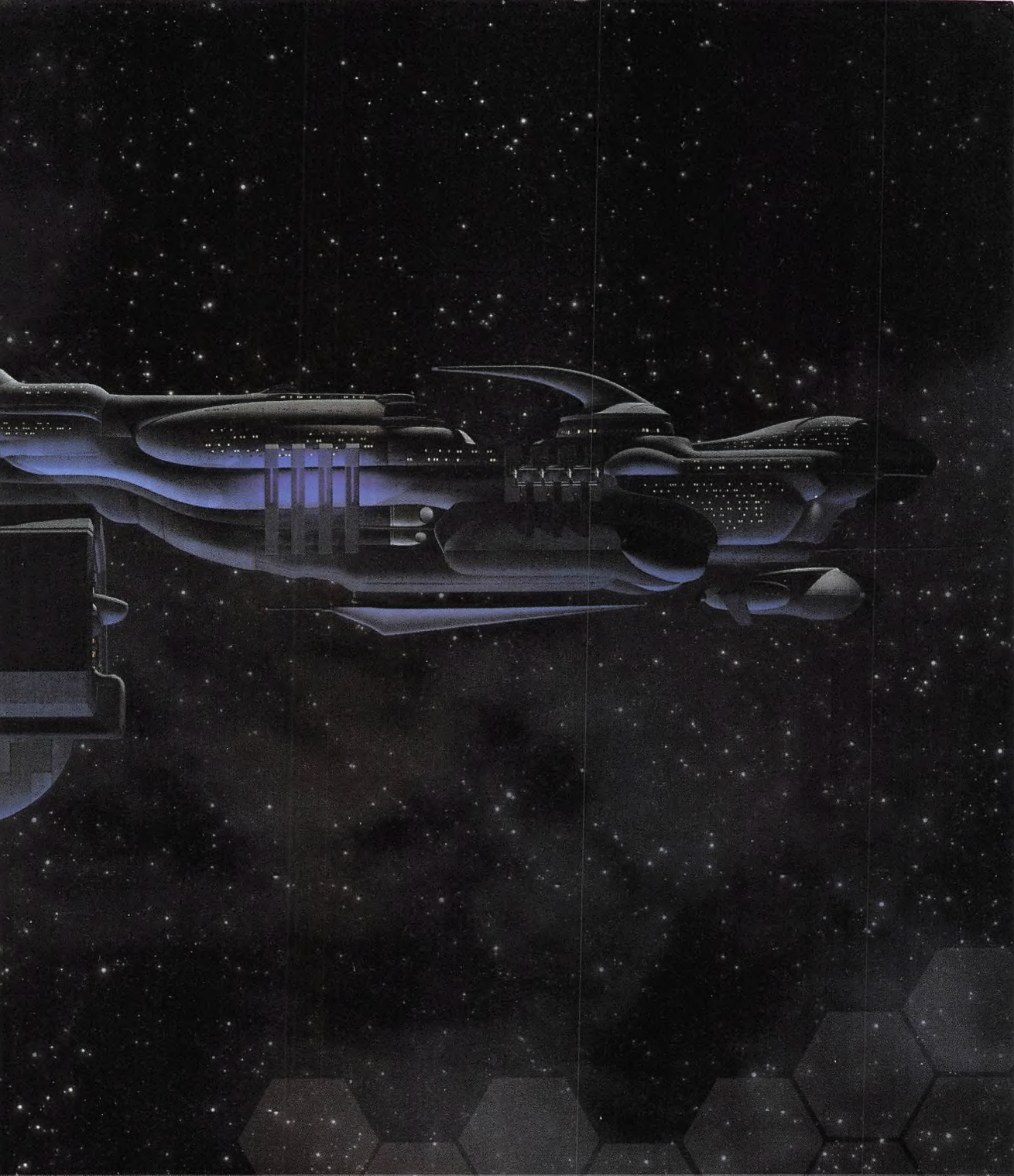

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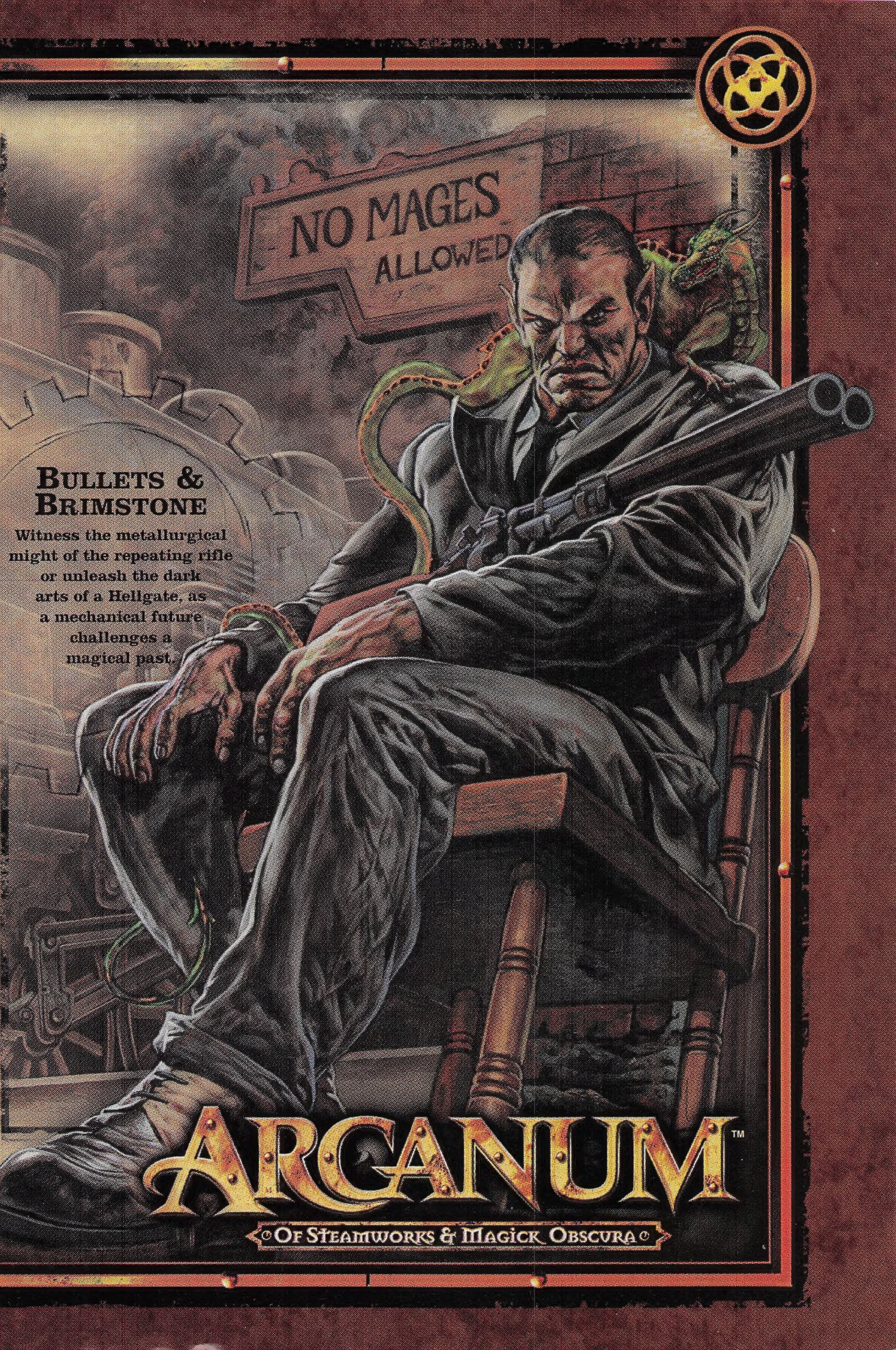
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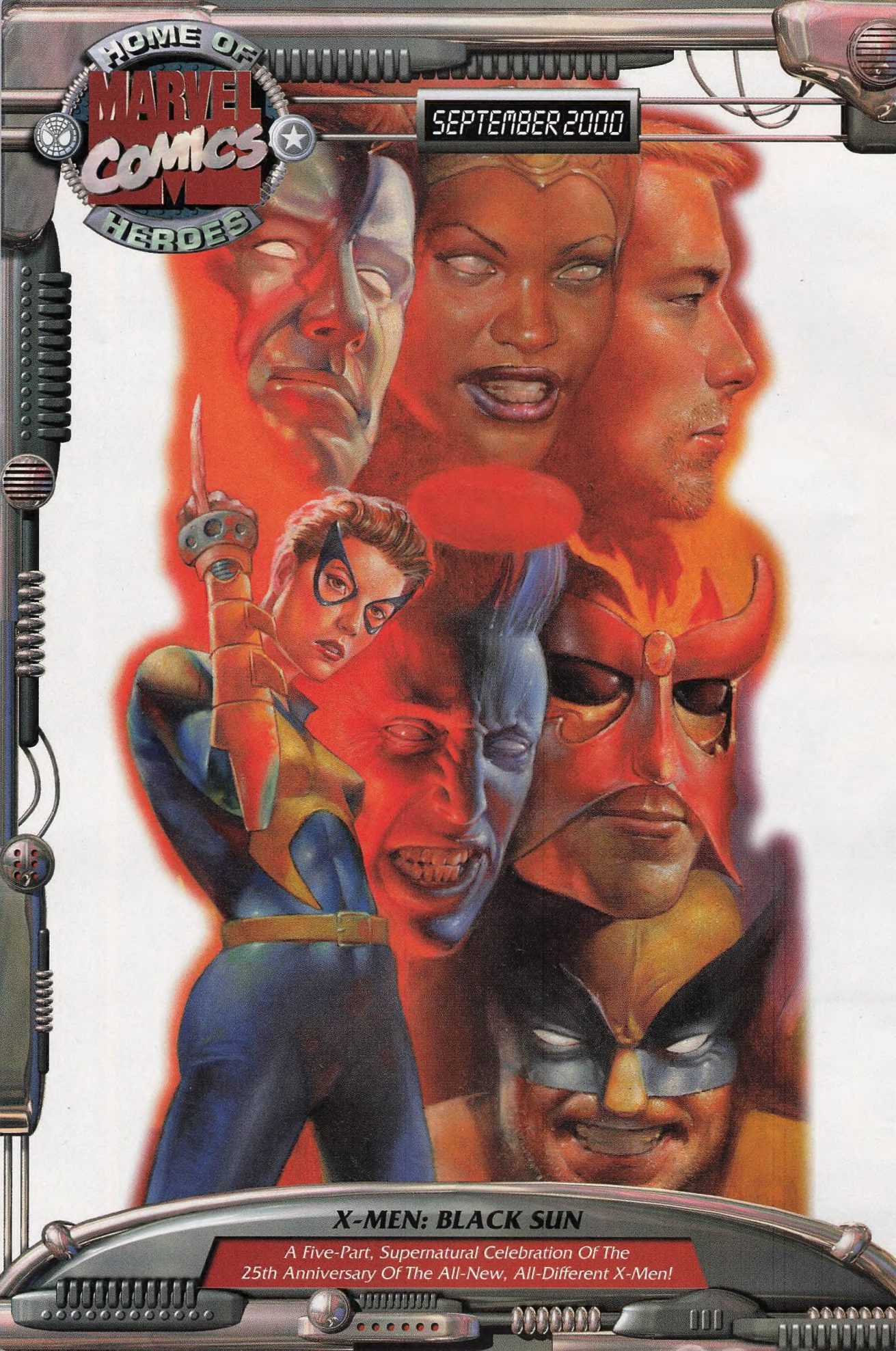
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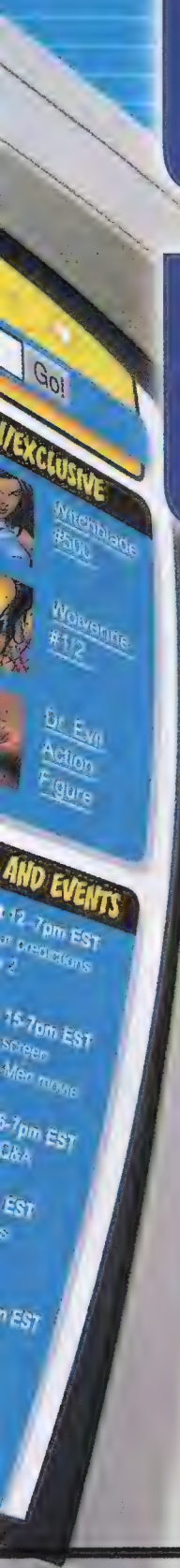

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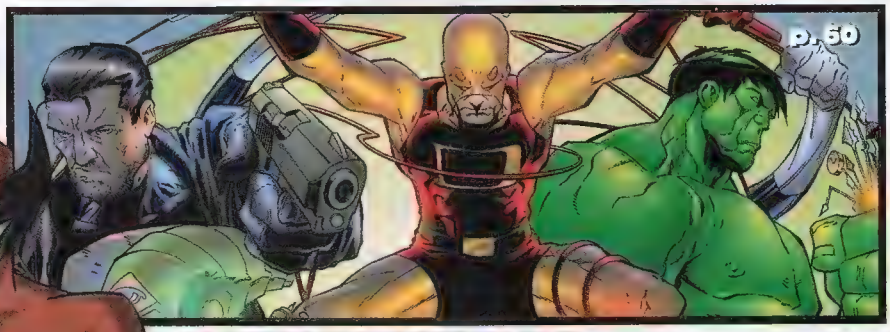
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60 MARVEL BOYZ
Grant Morrison tackles the Fantastic Four, Kevin Smith returns and Garth Ennis writes...well, we can't tell you *everything* about Marvel Knights Year Three. **By Christopher Lawrence**

68 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE?
Marvel taps Brian Michael Bendis to make Spider-Man cool again as a part of its "Ultimate" line—and find new fans in the process. Can it be done? **By Christopher Lawrence**

72 GOING POSTAL
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90 FAMOUS FANS
From Ben Affleck to Rob Zombie, WIZARD pulls back the curtain to reveal the top 75 celebrity comic fans. **By the WIZARD staff**

ON THE COVERS

The **Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft** cover (left) was painted by the extraordinary Joe Jusko. To find out more about Jolie and her upcoming role in the Tomb Raider movie, hike on over to **page 56**. The **Punisher and Marvel Boy** cover (right) was drawn by J.G. Jones and colored by Avalon Studios and Matt Milla. To get the lowdown on what's goin' on for Year Three with the Marvel Knights gang, flip on over to **page 60**.

Lara Croft: Eidos; Angelina Jolie: ©Matt Gunther/Corbis Outline; Cover images: Pamela Anderson, Howard Stern/Foto Fantasies; Freddie Prinze Jr./Jeff Slocumb/Outline; Shaq/Gilbert Flores/Celebrity Photo.

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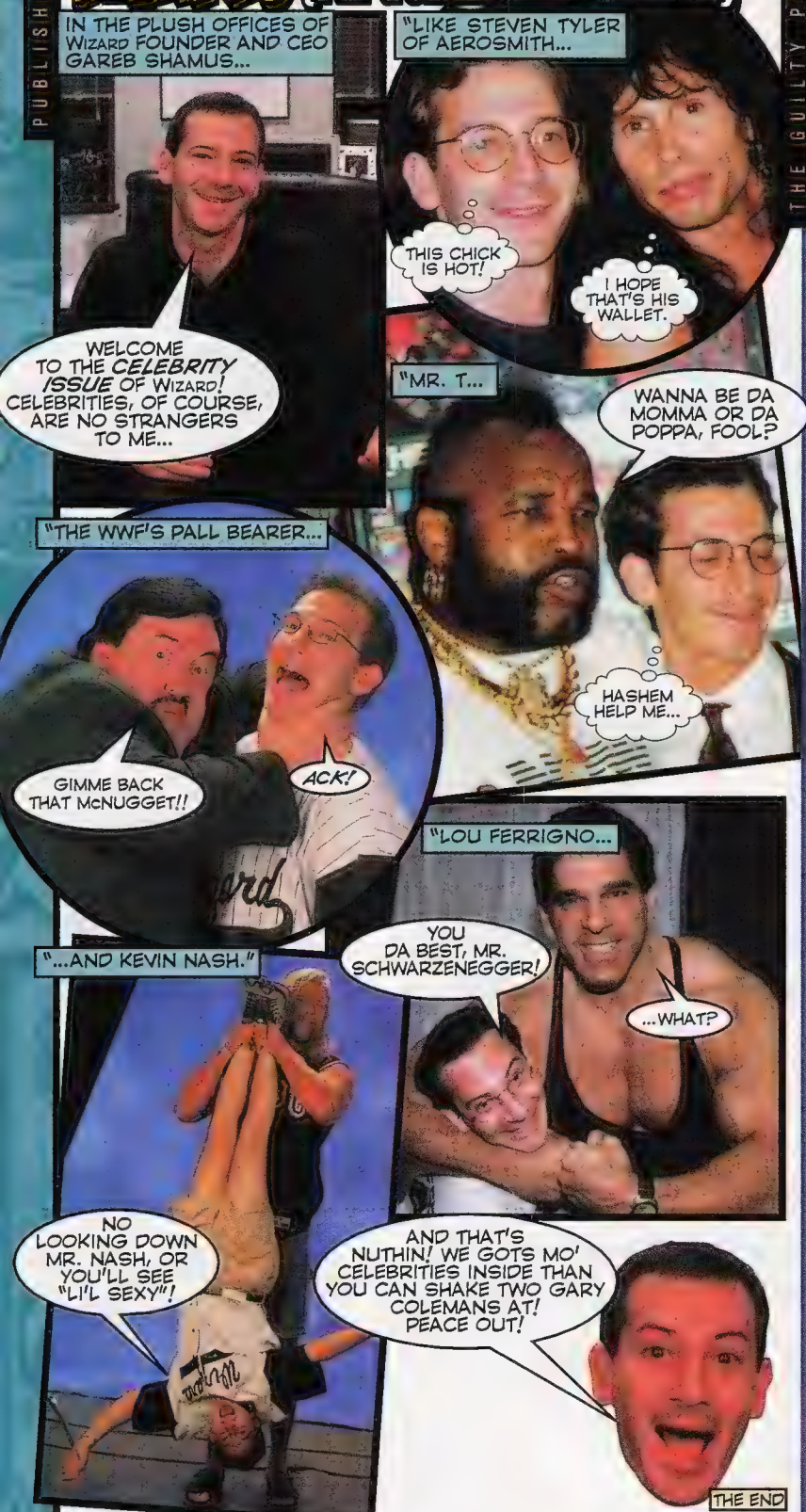
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I HOPE THAT'S HIS WALLET.
"MR. T...
WANNA BE DA MOMMA OR DA POPPA, FOOL?
HASHEM HELP ME...
"THE WWF'S PALL BEARER...
GIMME BACK THAT McNUGGET!!
ACK!
"LOU FERRIGNO...
YOU DA BEST, MR. SCHWARZENEGGER!
...WHAT?
"...AND KEVIN NASH."
NO LOOKING DOWN MR. NASH, OR YOU'LL SEE "LI'L SEXY"!
AND THAT'S NUTHIN! WE GOTS MO' CELEBRITIES INSIDE THAN YOU CAN SHAKE TWO GARY COLEMANS AT! PEACE OUT!
THE END

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MAGIC WORDS

THE 'RISING STARS' CONSPIRACY... ADAMANTIUM FILLINGS... ...AND TOILETS & DEAD ANIMALS!

Where is the darkness of ignorance dispelled by the 100-watt flashlight of truth? Only in "Magic Words," dear reader. Letters ho!

Dear Comic World,

The new *Marvel Boy* series from Marvel Comics written by Grant Morrison got me thinking. I love Grant's work. He and Alex Ross made me like DC. So in the last issue of Grant's run on *JLA*, why didn't DC mention he was going to write *Marvel Boy* next?

You see, comic publishers complain that comics don't have enough rep, that they have to compete against video games and movies and yadda-yadda-yadda. All true. But comics shoot themselves in the foot by competing *against* one another when they should work together.

Would it really hurt to stick "If you liked *JLA*, check out Grant's upcoming work on *Marvel Boy*" in the back of *JLA*? No. And would it hurt to reference Grant's DC work in *Marvel Boy*? No again. I'll tell you why.

Someone buys *Marvel Boy*. They like it. They find out the writer has written *JLA*. They buy *JLA* and like it. They then try the Superman comics. They like *Action Comics* by Joe Kelly. So they try Kelly's run on *Deadpool*, and we're back to Marvel.

No, Marvel and DC can't become one company—nor should they. But they should help each other out, promote creators, and appear unified because that's the only way comics will get more recognition.

So this is a plea, if you will, to DC and Marvel to help each other out. If they do this, maybe talents like Alex Ross, Grant Morrison and Joe Kelly will get the acclaim they deserve.

Bassim El-Wakil
bass_fett@hotmail.com

Great idea! Ain't always so easy. Blame the government.

"For a variety of reasons, it's not appropriate for DC to discuss our upcoming plans with other publishers," says DC Vice President of Direct Sales Bob Wayne. "Coordinating a program that steers readers to projects from competing publishers would require us to share proprietary information, and U.S. antitrust law limits the ways competitors can work together."

Still, DC makes efforts. F'r example, the Alex Ross bio in *Batman: War on Crime* mentions his Marvel work on *Marvels*. Wayne also points up mainstream PR efforts that benefited both Marvel and DC. "Did you see the news coverage this spring about Stan Lee working on a DC project?" he asks. "That doesn't happen by accident..."

On the other side of the street, Marvel Information Czar Bill Rosemann says, "In our monthly section in the *Previews* catalog, I reference creators' work for other companies all the time." But Rosemann and Marvel draw the line at in-book publicity. "We're not going to mention other companies' comics in our 'Next Issue' box, any more than a movie would say, 'Hey, go see our competitor's film right now!' "

So everyone's got a toe in the pool. But no one's diving in yet.

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WU-TANG CLAN'S METHOD MAN STARTED CALLING HIMSELF JOHNNY BLAZE IN TRIBUTE TO MARVEL'S DEMON BIKER, GHOST RIDER. HE DROPPED THE NAME AFTER "JOHN BLAZE" BECAME A TERM SYNONYMOUS WITH "REALLY, REALLY GOOD," AS IN, "THE 'X-MEN' MOVIE WAS JOHN BLAZE, MAN!"

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BUNNY AWARD

LETTER OF THE MONTH

Jim takes his favorite letter and spotlights it here. There's no logic attached to this, nor is there a prize.

Dear Wizard,

Even though Wolverine's bones are bonded with indestructible adamantium, his teeth are not. What's the deal with that?

Jesse Wolfstadt
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

The deal is endorsement deals. When the ol' Canucklehead went through the Weapon X program, he opted out of getting his teeth adamantium-ized. With adamantium, he would have been an impenetrable fortress, safe from tooth decay! Now, he has to brush regularly or he'll get cavities. And he does. With Crest.

Wolverine is the only superhero endorsed by the American Dental Association.

Hey, You!

When I started reading J. Michael Straczynski's *Rising Stars*, I was blown away by the story. And I think this Image Comic is an act of symbolism so obscure it would make Alan Moore's beard spin! The symbols? Image Comics!

See, the *Rising Stars* "Specials" all came into the world at the same time, just like the Image Comics titles. They were more powerful than anyone the world had ever seen, just as the original Image artists were more popular than anything the industry had ever seen. The "Specials" will leave a mark on their world, just as the Image founders left a mark on the comic world. Do you see???

I think that each main *Rising Stars* character represents an Image founder. Ravenshadow (The "artist" who has done better financially than the other Specials) is Todd McFarlane. Patriot (who sold his powers to the highest bidder) is Rob Liefeld. And Poet (an outsider to them all, because he knows he will have to kill them all in the end) is Erik Larsen. The list goes on and on!

Maybe I'm just finding symbolism where there is none.

And maybe *Moby Dick* is just a book about a guy and a whale.

Brian Pierce
brianp@birthdayexpress.com

Nice rant. Seen anyone on a grassy knoll lately?

Y'know, when you think like a hammer, things start looking like nails. Start looking for symbols and they pop up everywhere.

Erik Larsen says he has no plans to kill any of his fellow Image founders. And J. Michael Straczynski says sometimes face value is just face value. He also says, "Please tell Brian that we've dialed 911. Help is on the way."

Hey there Jim,

I've seen the recent DC "Got Milk?" ads featuring Superman and Batman. But the pieces are unsigned. Do you know who the artists for these ads are?

Jared Michael
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

Just one artist for both: Mr. José-Luis Garcia-Lopez. And if ya liked Supes and Bats with milk mustaches, check out JLGL's recently released *Realworlds: Superman* one-shot and his upcoming but as-yet-unscheduled "Batman Black and White" story for *Batman: Gotham Knights*.

Dear Claim Lunch,

I am very bored. I have to draw a comic for a school project. I started writing it in December, and finished writing in January. Now it's June, and I'm still penciling the damn thing! I also have to ink, color, and letter it by the end of July! Can you say "Missed Deadline"?

1) What do Joe Madureira, Chris Bachalo and Leinil F. Yu do when they feel burnt out, or just plain can't be bothered?

2) How the hell do you make computer lettering? I know many in the industry use Adobe Photoshop to color comics, but how do you letter?

3) Do girls laugh when comic artists tell them their profession? Just curious.

Rhys Prosser
Pencoed, South Wales, United Kingdom

1) They find distraction. "It always helps to crack open a book by an artist you really dig, or watch a movie you love," sez *Battle Chasers*' Joe Madureira. "Certain scenes from a Disney flick or some anime will do it for me every time."

***X-Men* artist Leinil F. Yu agrees. "A good movie with my girlfriend usually does the trick, as well as playing network PC games," he says.**

But Chris Bachalo gets more physical. "Get out of the house and go for a ride on the 'blades or the bike," the *Steampunk* artist says. "After an hour or so, I usually find I'm refreshed, my creativity is at its peak, and I'm ready to take on that next panel."

BUNNY PHOTO: PAUL SCHRALOW

HEY! IT'S PEN PALS...

Send your name, address, age, sex, e-mail address and three favorite titles to Pen Pals, c/o the "Magic Words" address at the end of this column (put your age on the envelope). **Pre-'98 entrants:** Please resend your entries.

ALEXANDER JAMES
Age: 21 Sex: Female
900 Baychester Ave. Apt. 5E
Bronx, NY 10475
Likes: *Darkness, Witchblade, Buffy the Vampire Slayer*

STEVE MARTINEZ
Age: 17 Sex: Male
41 Myra St. • Kingston 4114
Logan QLD, Australia
Likes: *Peter Parker: Spider-Man, X-Men, Detective Comics*

AUGUSTIN DIAZ REYES
Age: 23 Sex: Male
Guanajuato #14 • Col. Sta. Leticia
Cordoba Veracruz
C.P. 84470 Mexico
Likes: DCU, *Evil Ernie*

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

RAPPER GHOSTFACE KILLA OF WU-TANG CLAN ADOPTED THE NAME TONY STARK AND NAMED HIS DEBUT SOLO ALBUM *IRON MAN*. HE ALSO SAMPLED THE THEME SONG FROM THE "IRON MAN" CARTOON FROM THE '60S ON HIS SECOND ALBUM, *SUPREME CLIENTELE*.

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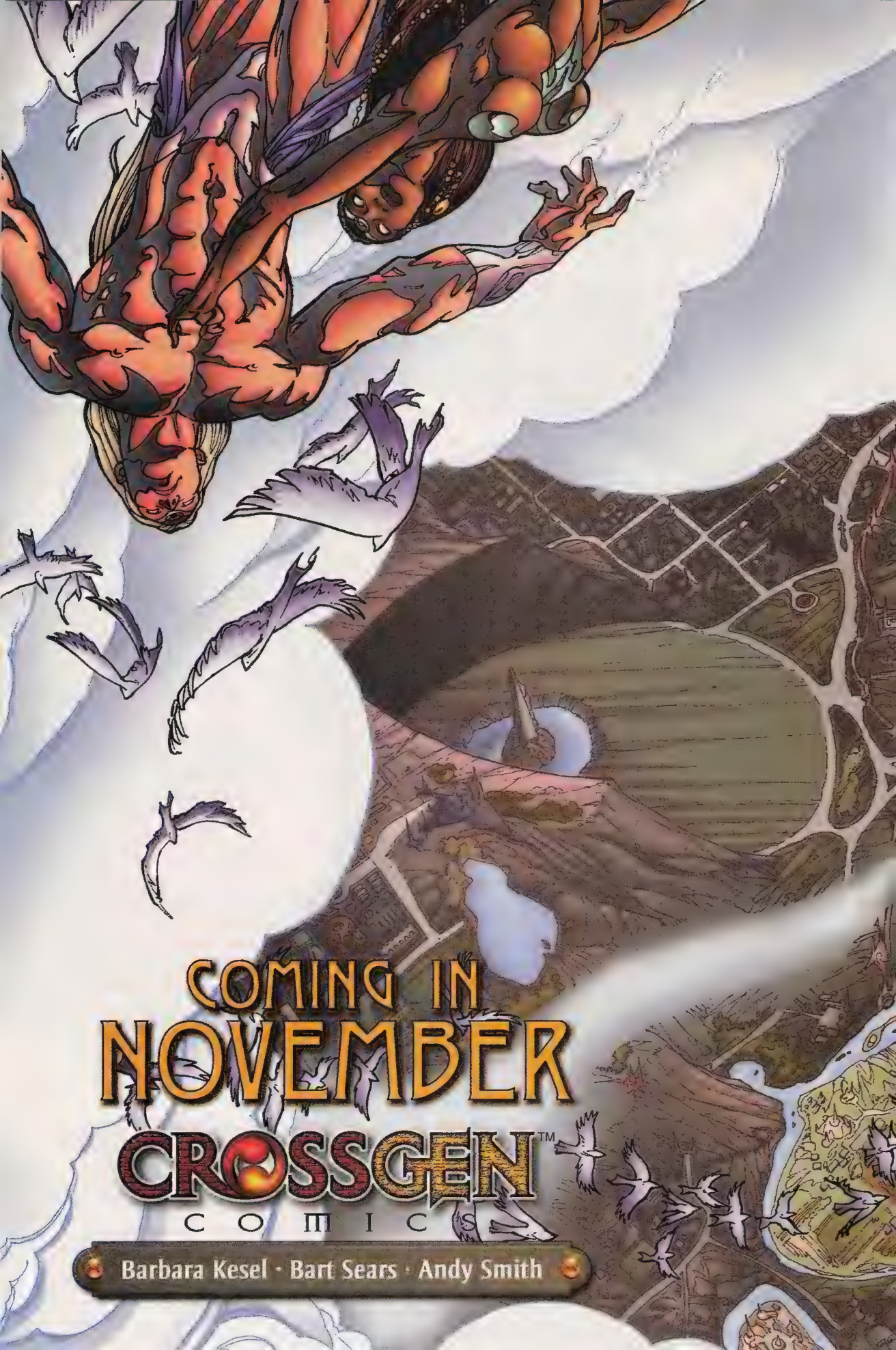
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comic artist. It makes for great conversation."

Family man Leinil F. Yu likes it for a different reason. "Girls dig my job 'cause they all have a brother, cousin, nephew or uncle who reads comics," he brags. "It's quite a chick magnet."

But Chris "Sweet Lovin'" Bachalo thinks it's simpler than that. "As far as the femmes are concerned," he says, "they love artists. We're sensitive, you know. But don't tell my wife—I'll deny having said any of this to the very end."

Dear WIZARD,

1) How did Alan Moore get his start in comics? I'm thinking of becoming a comic writer.

2) Are you going to start listing comics graded by the Comics Guaranty Corporation (CGC) in your Price Guide?

3) Is there going to be a *Magdalena* regular series?

Chris Woodruff
Kokomo, IN

1) *Watchmen* scribe Alan Moore sneaked in the side door. "I started as a cartoonist, and I still have delusions of adequacy as an illustrator," he says. Moore did gag strips and illustrations for British music magazines in the late '70s until "I found I couldn't draw fast enough or well enough to make a living. So I started submitting stories to *2000 A.D.* and *Dr. Who*, about the only two outlets for original stories in Britain at the time."

The stories took, much to Moore's delight. His previous two jobs? Cleaning toilets at a hotel, and processing dead animal skins at a tanning yard.

Makes comics look pretty good, huh?

2) Yep. "WIZARD's Guide to Graded Comics" is now three pages every month, and if ya ask real nice, we

2) Find out from the typography titans of Comicraft, who tackle that ticklish topic with tantalizing tips and tricks at www.comicbookfonts.com.

3) Surprisingly, no. At least that's what they say. "Actually, most girls think being a comic artist rocks," says Madureira. "Most people have never actually met a

GABE LUCA
Age: 39 Sex: Male
PO Box 991
Castle Hill, NSW, 1765 Australia
Likes: *Captain America, Magdalena*, Ka-Zar

ALLEN NAPIER
Age: 21 Sex: Male
HC 69 Box 400
Arjay, KY 40902
Likes: Mystery Science Theater, *Punisher, Legion Lost*

BELINDA FELLOWS
Age: 20 Sex: Female
320 E. Stalling St.
Clayton, NC 27520
buttercup_27520@yahoo.com
Likes: Tons o' stuff

PETER WOCKEN
Age: 18 Sex: Male
6712 5th Ave. NE
Sauk Rapids, MN 56379
Likes: *Fathom, Warlands, Rising Stars*

JAMES DRAPER
Age: 32 Sex: Male
1711 20th St.
Hayburn, ID 83336
Likes: Hulk, Creeper, Hydro-Man

S.A. NASH
Age: 19 Sex: Female
41 Gooseneck Road
Levittown, PA 19057-3420
Likes: manga, Star Wars, *Fathom*

BARRY EPHRAIM
Age: 30 Sex: Male
427 Park Ave. Box 118
Worcester, MA 01610-1335
Likes: *Avengers, Iron Man*, Batman books

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WHEN BILLY TUCCI WAS FIRST INTERESTED IN BRINGING SHI TO THE BIG SCREEN, SANDRA BULLOCK HAD HER AGENT CONTACT HIM TO EXPRESS HER INTEREST. HOWEVER, TUCCI POLITELY DECLINED THE OFFER, SAYING, "NO THANKS, SHE AIN'T EVEN JAPANESE."

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JUSTICE DRIVES HIM

WE IMMORTALIZED HIM

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QUICK HITS

THE READERS STRIKE BACK!

"Alex Ross will auction off his original artwork from the upcoming *Shazam!* one-shot for the Make-A-Wish foundation ["Shazam!," *Wizard* #107]? This is a wonderful gesture on his part!"

—Jon Murphy, Wellington, FL

"Just picked up *Wizard* #107, but something was missing–the bikini-clad lovely who appears with the Bunny. We really need to see more of her. Can you set that up?"

—Mark Kreag, mkreag@ibm.net

"Thank God the 'X-Men' movie is upon us. Maybe now you'll stop doing 14 pages a freakin' issue of hype on it!"

—Stanley Elias, Port Angeles, WA

"Who picked Angelina Jolie to play Lara Croft in the 'Tomb Raider' movie? After seeing new video game model Lucy Clarkson ["Hot Seat," *Wizard* #107], I think they should have picked her."

—Jeff DeMontreville, Stillwater, MN

"Have you noticed the 'X-Men' books are good again? Both Warren Ellis on 'Counter-X' and Chris Claremont on the two main X-books have really delivered."

—Harold Meyer, Allentown, PA

"Dale Keown is actually alive ["News and Notes," *Wizard* #107] and back doing *Pitt*? Cool! He's always been one of my favorites."

—Allan W. Simpson, Orange, CA

"Thanks for the Ed McGuinness Superman 'Basic Training' [*Wizard* #107]. This guy is not only the most exciting artist *ever* on Superman, but a good teacher, too."

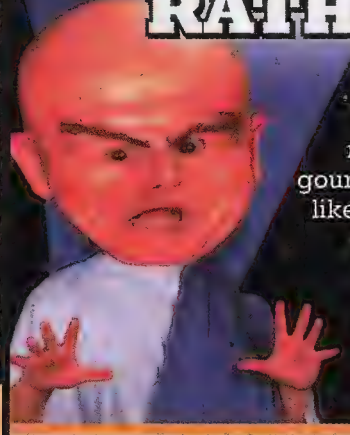
—Randy Stamos, Junctionville, KS

"I went to the comic store and got *Savage Dragon* and *Thor* drawn by Erik Larsen on the same day. And I got a Larsen-drawn Spider-Man a week before. Can Larsen give 'work ethic' lessons to the Cliffhanger boys?"

—Todd Sullivan, Lubbock, TX

THE WATCHER ASKS: WOULDJA RATHER...?

CHOOSE THE LESSER OF TWO EVILS



...look like the Blob but have all your meals prepared by gourmet chefs **OR** look like Harrison Ford but only get to eat raw puppy brains?

Fans polled at wizardworld.com:
58.3% Blob
41.7% Harrison Ford

might even expand beyond that.

3) Nah. "We're planning another Magdalena storyarc in 2001," says Top Cow Editor-in-Chief Matt Hawkins. "Whether it's a four-issue, six-issue or longer series remains to be seen. But we're trying to keep the number of ongoing series we do down. We don't want quantity to dilute our quality."

Dear WIZARD,

1) Where do all those Bible quotes in *Kingdom Come* come from?

2) Is there anybody in the DC or Marvel Universes that can beat Goku from "Dragon Ball Z"?

3) You guys rock, right?

Anthony Guzman
Los Angeles, CA

1) The Bible.

2) Maybe. We've received a lot of letters asking that very question. In fact, we're thinkin' 'bout havin' Goku square off against another super-tough in a future "Last Man Standing." So who would make for the best matchup? Write in or e-mail lastmanstanding@wizardworld.com and let us know.

3) Right.

Hey Jim,

I noticed in the WIZARD Price Guide that the last few *Transformers* comics just before it was canceled are worth far more than the first issues. Can you tell me why?

Karl Schleicher
Chatham, MA

Because they're much scarcer. Often when titles get canceled, they get that ax 'cause their sales blow chunks. So the print runs on the last few issues are tiny. When a market trigger (like this bizarre wave of '80s nostalgia currently choking our once-proud nation in its death grip) hits, blammo!—instant scarcity, instant price boom.

Dear Jim,

The Marvel villain Taskmaster has photographic reflexes, right? So instead of getting his ass kicked by the Avengers while trying to steal money and other dastardly deeds, why doesn't he just watch professional baseball pitchers like Randy Johnson or Pedro Martinez and make $10 million a year?

Rob Brill
madmax535@cs.com

Because he can't. Tasky can duplicate any motion he sees, but not physical attributes. Just like he can't duplicate the raw power of the Hulk, neither can he duplicate the long arms of Johnson or the arm strength of Martinez. He could probably be a damn good Major League pitcher,

Mystique: FOX. Watcher: Paul Schiraldi.

SAYAKA SUZUKI
Age: 21 Sex: Female
2752 S. Embers Lane
Arlington Heights, IL 60005
Likes: anime, Kevin Smith, Crimson

AARON GRONO
Age: 14 Sex: Male
8526 Itasca Ct.
Forest Lake, MN 55025
Likes: Spider-titles, *Pokémon*, drawing

JOE BROWN
Age: 24 Sex: Male
58 Lincoln Ave.
Springfield, OH 45503
Likes: Anything Top Cow or Image

DAVID BOWIE
Age: 26 Sex: Male
112 Lindsey Ave.
Toronto, Ontario, CND M6H 1E3
Likes: Chaos! Comics, *Dawn*, crossovers

JOHN NGUYEN
Age: 21 Sex: Male
Box 2 Site 4, R.R. 3
Fort Sask, Alta. Canada T8L2N9
Likes: *Tales of Witchblade*, *Darkchylde*, *Curse of the Spawn*

SAM LIEBERMAN
Age: 13 Sex: Male
5837 Rustic Knolls
Boulder, CO 80301
Likes: *Hitman*, *Akiko*, *Divine Right*

ANGELIZ HERNANDEZ
Age: 15 Sex: Female
PO Box 280
Saint Just, Puerto Rico 00978
Likes: Anime and manga, all X-titles

WHEN THE SUN GOES DOWN,
THEY COME OUT.

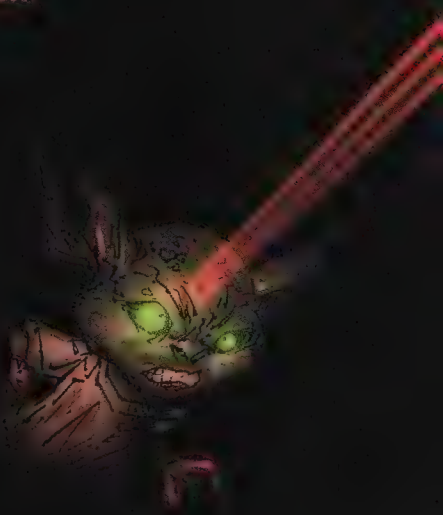
THEY THRIVE ON BLOOD—
AND FEAR—AND DARKNESS.

THEY SEEK A TROPHY
THAT IS AGES OLD.

THEY WILL HAVE TO KILL
A COP TO GET IT.

THEY ARE COMING...

...are you prepared?



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LETTER ART

The mega-talented creator of this month's best envelope will win a cool JSA PVC set, donated by the generous folks at DC Comics and DC Direct. DC is so cool for donating their products, we owe 'em bigger than Tony Stark owes Pepper Potts. . . for whatever went on last night! Artists: Please include a clearly printed return address and a list of characters depicted on the back of the envelope.

ENVELOPE OF THE MONTH.....THE PRIZE

SUPERMAN VS. HULK Manuel Rohena, Bronx, NY

BAT-VILLAINS AT PLAY Joe Rinaldi, Savannah, GA

WOLVERINE Donny G. Kusuma, Surabaya, Indonesia

MILK & CHEESE Alan Brown Earleville, MD

but fall short of top-flight guys such as the Big Unit and Pedro.

Poor guy could probably only make $6.5 million a year.

Dear Jim,

I found this book at a tag sale called *You Don't Say!* published in 1963 and written by Stan Lee. It was only 50¢, so I bought it. Is this *the* Stan Lee? And is it worth anything?

Aaron Ziemba
Quincy, MA

Well, whaddya know? The man who wrote about 53 comics a month in the '60s found time for extra work on the side. "*You Don't Say!* was definitely my book. I wrote every splendid, sparkling, scintillating word of it," Stan says.

The book is a collection of celebrity photos with goofy word balloons attached, kinda like the random balloons you find in an average issue of WIZARD. As to value today, Marvel Zombies are usually willing to shell out $10-$15 if the book's in good condition.

"And he bought it for 50¢?" Stan yelps. "I don't even have a copy! Tell Aaron I'll buy it from him for a buck, so he can double his money."

Slick guy, that Stan. He could really go somewhere in this business. Speaking o' which, I'm gonna go somewhere for a while. Until next month, I remain...

—Jim McLauchlin

GE may bring good things to life, but Jim McLauchlin puts bad things to death. Whose light bulbs are you gonna buy now?

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TWISTING IN THE WIND

McFarlane loses $24 million judgment in Tony Twist defamation case

What's in a name? Everything—if you're *Spawn* creator Todd McFarlane. A St. Louis Circuit Court jury awarded Tony Twist, a former enforcer for the National Hockey League's St. Louis Blues, $24.5 million after a two-year legal battle with McFarlane over the creator's mobster character Antonio Twistelli, who went by the nickname Tony Twist and appeared in *Spawn* over its eight-year history. Twist claimed McFarlane had stolen his name for the comic character without his permission, damaging his reputation and hurting his ability to get product endorsements.

Twist first became aware of the Antonio Twistelli character when his mother received a *Spawn* trading card featuring the comic book villain, according to *Sports Illustrated* (July 17, 2000). It was Twist's mother who convinced him to sue. When the verdict was announced, Twist's mother was pleased and relieved with the result.

"I'm happy the public knows Tony had nothing to do with this character," she said.

During the trial, Twist maintained that although the character only shares a nickname with him and bears no similar physical resemblance, he was negatively affected—both financially and emotionally—by the character. Ironically, Twist earned a reputation as one of the NHL's "hit" men, better known for his on-ice skirmishes rather than graceful goal-scoring ability. Twist hasn't played in the NHL in nearly two years.

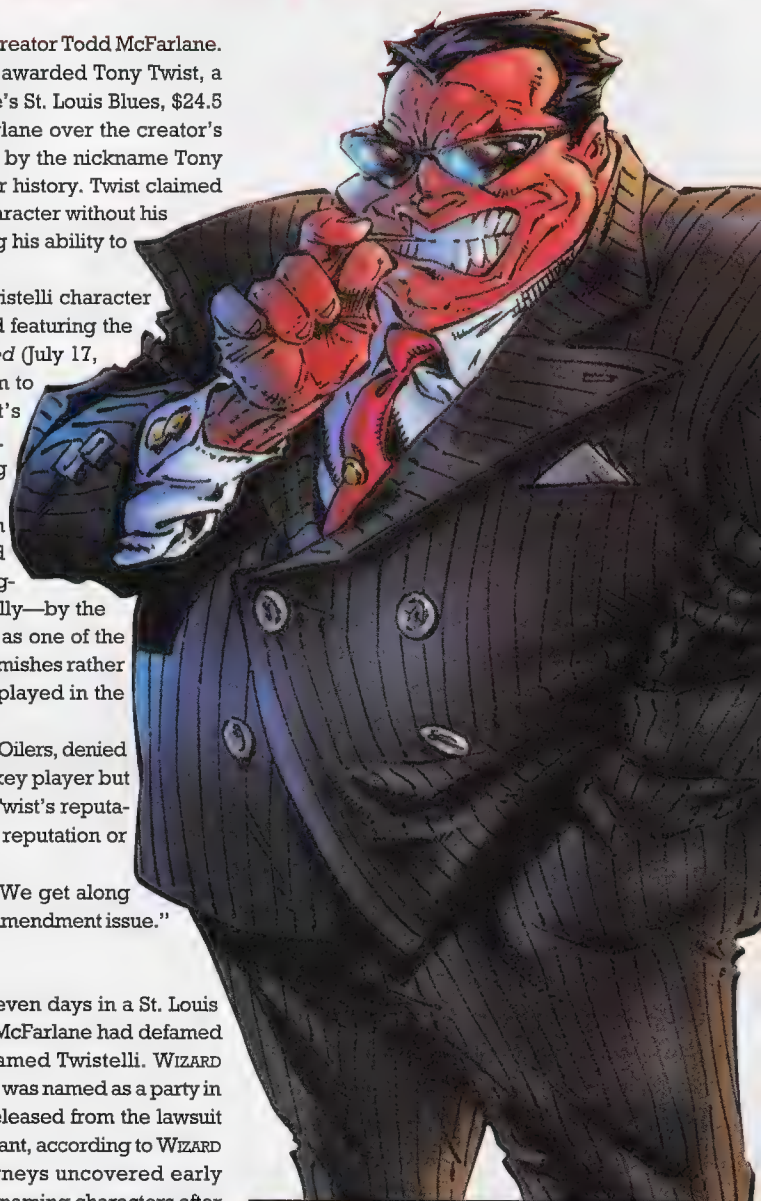
McFarlane, a part-owner of the NHL Edmonton Oilers, denied basing the Twistelli character on the former hockey player but the jury was convinced McFarlane had injured Twist's reputation. McFarlane claimed the case was not about reputation or about Twist—it was about creator's rights.

"This is not about Twist," McFarlane said. "We get along fine, this is way beyond Tony Twist, this is a First Amendment issue."

THE LAWSUIT

After almost two years in legal battles and seven days in a St. Louis courtroom, Twist alleged and the jury believed McFarlane had defamed him when creating a bloated, evil gangster named Twistelli. WIZARD ENTERTAINMENT, along with many other companies, was named as a party in the original lawsuit. WIZARD was subsequently released from the lawsuit and the WIZARD SPAWN SPECIAL was deemed irrelevant, according to WIZARD attorney Michael Stephens, after Twist's attorneys uncovered early issues of *Spawn*, in which McFarlane admitted to naming characters after hockey players.

McFarlane said in a letters column from 1994's *Spawn* #20, "As a self-proclaimed hockey fanatic, you are absolutely correct in noticing hockey players' names in my book. Sometimes I use their full names and sometimes I just use



PLOT TWIST Former NHL enforcer Tony Twist (right) won a $24.5 million judgment against Todd McFarlane (far right) because of the Spawn character Antonio Twistelli.

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WHEN ASKED IF THERE WAS A SUPERHERO SHE'D WANT TO PORTRAY, ACTRESS JAIME PRESSLY ("JACK AND JILL") ANSWERED, "EVERY WOMAN WOULD LIKE TO PLAY WONDER WOMAN. AND SHE-RA, PRINCESS OF POWER, WAS BIG WHEN I WAS LITTLE."

their last. Let's make a checklist of some of the names I've used so far: Burke, Williams, Sakic, Twist, Linden, Roenick..."

While McFarlane admitted using the Twist name, he said the similarities between the hockey player and the mobster character stop at that.

"Tony Twist the real man, the plaintiff in this case, is a good looking 30-year-old hockey player, who used to play for the St. Louis Blues, a strapping young man, and the character, that's in the fictitious work of *Spawn*, is a 53-year-old Sicilian, his real name is Antonio Twistelli, and he's a mob boss and he's got double chins and he's sort of a bloated fat little guy," McFarlane said. "So why would anybody sit there and go, 'I wonder if that two-dimensional cartoon is actually that real person over there?' "

THE FUTURE

If the verdict and judgment stand, it could mean the end of McFarlane's decade-old empire. McFarlane admitted as much to the Reuters News Service, saying he's worried about the $24.5 million judgment—and that the loss could put him out of business. But TMP's first concern will be to start the appeals process.

"If I lost and the damages were only $10, I'd still fight this thing, because you can't let what happened stand," McFarlane said. "I'm not trying to cover my ass on this. What I was just found guilty of, there are now thousands of people in the entertainment and publishing industry guilty of the same crime. We all became guilty. You can take my name out and put in CNN or Time Warner or Stephen King. You're guilty."

CBLDF INVOLVEMENT

Will the Comic Book Legal Defense Fund get involved? Yes, but not as involved as it's been in other creator rights cases. While the CBLDF often uses its resources to defend both retailer and creator rights, it only does so when asked—and with McFarlane's empire guarded by heavy-hitting lawyers, there was no need to ask. But the CBLDF is concerned about the First Amendment and creative rights being taken to task in the case, according to CBLDF executive director Chris Oarr.

"The implications in this case are chilling," Oarr said. "We're looking at it very closely. Todd never asked for our help, but not many people have the resources that he has. We're looking at this case from the point of view of all comics' creators and not just McFarlane. We may feel compelled to file a brief of our own, when the appeal comes down—this could affect a lot of people in the comics field."

THE APPEAL

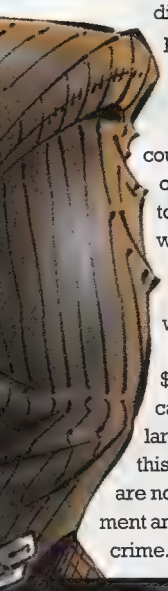
What chance does McFarlane have with an appeal? Almost an 80 percent chance, according to a study by the Libel Resource Center that found close to 80 percent of defamation suits are reversed, remanded or seriously reduced.

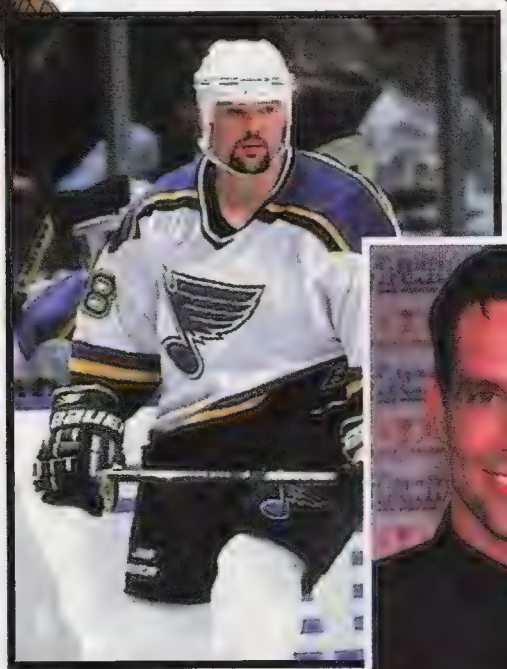
"This should have never gone as far as it did," said attorney Burton Joseph, who has represented *Playboy* publisher Hugh Hefner since 1954. "I don't know how the character in *Spawn* was portrayed. Was he a hockey player? No. He was a gangster. That's the problem. It seems to me Tony Twist was running when nobody was chasing him."

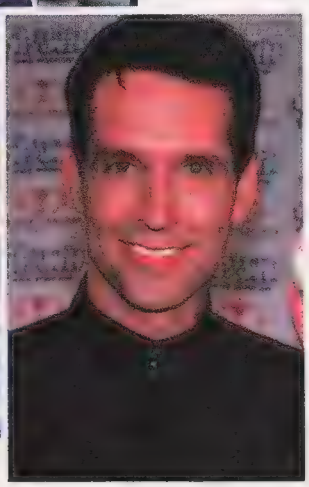
Don't expect the Twist case to get overturned any time soon, though. Joseph said an appeals process will most likely take between 18 months and two years. In most cases a bail of approximately 20 percent would be posted by McFarlane and TMP to begin the appeals process but because the award was so high and likely to be overturned, no bond was needed, according to sources close to the case.

McFarlane and TMP have high hopes for the appeal and the *Spawn* creator believes justice will eventually be served.

"I don't believe I've done anything wrong," McFarlane said, "I'm sure the law will win out." ■ **MIKE COTTON WITH ADDITIONAL REPORTING BY TOM ROOT**







McFarlane © Todd McFarlane Productions.

Vampirella model quits in disgust. "I mean, come on!" said incredulous former cheerleader.

Hello Kitty lookalike contest a bust. "Fiery Phoenix!" yelled grand-prize winner moments before cleaning himself.

"Hey baby," said not Superman, "know who I am?"

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THE BUZZBIN

THE INSIDE SCOOP ON THE COMIC INDUSTRY

JLA/AVENGERS AT LAST? Inside sources indicate that DC and Marvel are negotiating to produce more crossovers together. The source said it's "the first signs of life he's seen in years" for a possible Avengers/JLA project.

ROSS REIGNS 'SUPREME'? The Marvel rumor mill's buzzing about Alex Ross and Jim Krueger's planned follow-up to *Universe X*. Details are sketchy at the moment, but sources inside Marvel indicate the pair are looking into a *Squadron Supreme* mini-series.

LINSNER AT MARVEL! Joseph Michael Linsner's post-*Dawn* project for early 2001? Marvel has inked the creator to revamp *Killraven*, based on the publisher's 1970s alternate Earth ravaged by Martian invaders.

'RISING STARS' MOVIE! J. Michael Straczynski, the writer/creator behind Top Cow's *Rising Stars*, has sold the film rights of the comic to an unnamed company. The author also inked a deal to write the screenplay for the film about 113 people born with superhuman powers in a small Illinois town.

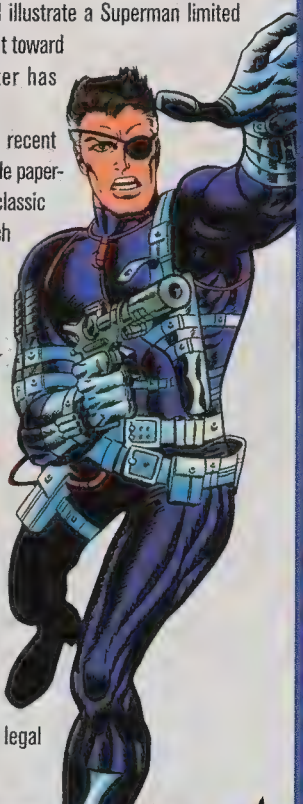
SIR AZZARELLO? Word has it, Marvel Knights editor Joe Quesada loves *Hellblazer* and *100 Bullets* scribe Brian Azzarello's work and is trying to lure him into doing a series for the Marvel imprint sometime next year.

RUCKA ASKS QUESTION! Due to his Question revamp in the six-issue *Huntress/Batman* mini-series, writer Greg Rucka will reportedly begin work on a mini-series starring the faceless hero for early next year.

SUPER-RON! Ron Garney will illustrate a Superman limited series, tentatively scheduled to hit toward the end of the year. No writer has been named.

POWER OF 'FURY'! Marvel's recent *Nick Fury: Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* trade paperback reprinting Jim Steranko's classic *Strange Tales* stories has been such a huge hit and instant sellout that a second printing's due in November AND a second paperback reprinting Steranko's *Nick Fury, Agent of Shield* #1-#6 is rumored to follow in 2001.

DOWN WITH THE MAN! Kieron Dwyer is being sued by Starbucks over the "consumer whore" cover of his self-published *LCD* comic, which parodies the Starbucks logo. Dwyer can no longer sell the book, but can give it away for free and (nudge nudge, wink wink) accept donations for his legal defense fund.



FISTS OF FURY Trade paperbacks of Jim Steranko's Nick Fury work are selling with a vengeance.

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WHEN ASKED WHO HIS FAVORITE SUPERHEROES ARE, JAMES MARSDEN, WHO PLAYED CYCLOPS IN THE "X-MEN" MOVIE, REPLIED, "I ALWAYS LIKED SPIDER-MAN. I THOUGHT HE WAS VERY COOL, AND I WAS REALLY INTO HIM BECAUSE I WAS ALWAYS SKINNY."

NEW 'AVENGERS' TEAM ASSEMBLES

Former X-artist Alan Davis joins Kurt Busiek, replaces Pérez

Alan Davis goes with the flow.

The England-based writer/artist of such books as *Excaliber* and *X-Men* freely admits he never wanted to fill the shoes of outgoing *Avengers* artist George Pérez on the book, but now that he's got the gig, he's willing to make his mark.

"I don't really think too much about trying to top what [Pérez] has done," said Davis, who takes over with January's *Avengers* #38 after fill-in issues by John Romita Jr. [issue #35] and Steve Epting [issues #36-37] said. "I'm looking at the Avengers since the first issues and there have been so many great creative teams on it. If you get intimidated, you should just step out and let someone else do it."

Avengers writer Kurt Busiek who, along with Pérez, helped shape a new *Avengers* dynasty over their almost three-year run, said Davis was the perfect choice to take over the book.

"Alan's ideal for a book like *Avengers*—he's a sensational all-around comics' artist, drawing everything well, and he's especially good at classic heroics," Busiek said. "I've seen Alan's first sketches for *Avengers*, and fans of the book are going to be as delighted as I am."

In fact, Busiek almost turned in his Avengers' ID along with Pérez—that is until he heard Davis was joining the team.

"When George left, I considered leaving as well, and just taking pride in what George and I have accomplished," Busiek said. "But [*Avengers* Editor] Tom Brevoort and I spent some time talking about what could keep me on the book, and what it boiled down to was that I could be pleased with what we've achieved so far, or I could take on the challenge of setting a new tone, a new flavor, of starting a new era for the book and making that work as well or better than what we've done so far. And I'm always up for a good challenge." ■ MC

ASSEMBLY REQUIRED Alan Davis will build on the Avengers tradition established by George Pérez.

LET'S BE FRANK

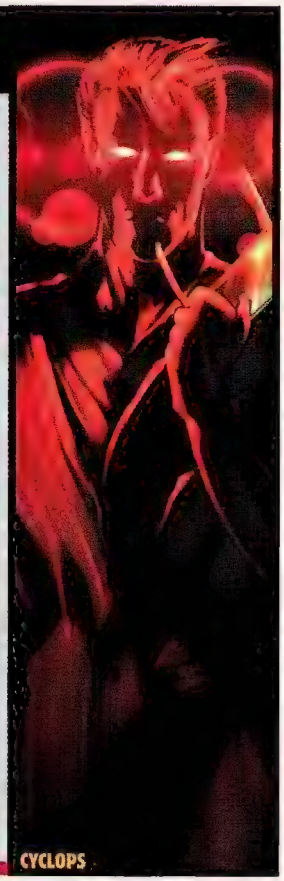
SPECIAL SNEAK PEEK
DARK KNIGHT 2!

Leaner, meaner Batman to battle 'fascist tool' Superman

Frank Miller's *Dark Knight Returns* changed comics forever and now, as he launches into the sequel, *The Dark Knight Strikes Again*, he's taking comics' and DC's two greatest heroes in new directions. Here's what Miller had to say about Batman and Superman three years after the events of Dark Knight...

"Batman's three years older, three years leaner and three years meaner," Miller said. "He's gathered his strength and his forces. He's been training his troops. He hasn't lost a step. He's built an army. Superman will be a huge part of this story. He'll still be a tool of this new fascist government but now it'll be explained why he does what he does. I won't say too much more than that." ■ MC

X-MEN WATCH



● *X-Men Forever*, the long-awaited mini-series by Fabian Nicieza and Kevin Maguire, is finally on schedule for a November release. The six-issue limited series draws five disparate X-characters together to face a being threatening the future of mankind. Each character will confront a moment in history crucial to them–and fans will see just how their decisions impacted the greater fabric of the Marvel Universe.

● *Magik*, a four-issue limited series hitting in October, spins out of the upcoming *X-Men: Black Sun* storyline. The mini, which features a story by the *Legion Lost* team of Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning and art by Liam Sharpe, pits some of Marvel's merry mutants (including Nightcrawler) against menaces more mystical in nature (like Mephisto).

● Bishop and Professor X are coming home. The futuristic X-Man and the founder of Marvel's most misunderstood superteam returns to current Marvel continuity during October's "Maximum Security" storyline, specifically in the pages of *X-Men Unlimited*.

● Phoenix and Cable venture out in search of a lost relative this October in a four-issue mini-series called *The Search for Cyclops*. Though he was featured in the "X-Men" movie, Scott Summers has been all but absent from the pages of the X-books since the climactic ending to the saga of The Twelve earlier this year. The series will be written by Joe Harris, with art by Tom Raney.

● Marvel revisits the roots of Epic in October, with Brian Wood's three-issue *Frost* mini-series. The storyarc touches upon the emergence of her mutant abilities and the escapades leading up to her ascendance to the role of White Queen. No interior artist has yet been named, but Adam Hughes will provide the covers.

● Writer Frank Tieri, who's been honing his skills co-writing *Iron Man* with Joe Quesada, will join former *Iron Man* artist Sean Chen as the regular *Wolverine* creative team following the completion of the current Rob Liefeld/Ian Churchill run. The first Tieri/Chen arc is tentatively set to begin in December.

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SENTRY FINDS FAMILIAR FRIENDS

Fifth-week event pairs forgotten hero with Spidey, X-Men and FF

Marvel's making the most of the Sentry.

After spending almost 40 years in limbo, Marvel's first superhero is finding plenty of work at 387 Park Ave. South. In addition to his current Marvel Knights mini-series, the Sentry will also star in an upcoming fifth-week event.

The four-issue project, masterminded by *Sentry* scribe Paul Jenkins, will pair Stan Lee and Artie Rosen's lost hero with some of Marvel's most recognizable faces.

"These are the stories that would have been," Jenkins said. "They'll show how the Sentry would have been part of the classic Marvel Universe, how he would have interacted with other heroes."

The one-shots will include: *Sentry/Spider-Man*, featuring pencils by Humberto Ramos; *Sentry/Hulk*, with art by Bill Sienkiewicz; *Sentry/Fantastic Four*, with illustrations by Phil Winslade; and *Sentry/X-Men*, featuring art by Mark Texiera.

THREESOME "My Spidey-sense isn't the only thing that's tingling."

Marvel Knights will then follow up the fifth-week special with an additional one-shot by the *Sentry* mini-series team of Jenkins and Jae Lee.

"This is a dream project for me," Lee said. "Sentry allows me the opportunity to draw all the major characters that have shaped the Marvel Universe. The mini-series features everyone from Spider-Man to the X-Men." ■ **CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE**

BARBERIWATCH

WHAT YOUR GUY'S UP TO

As of issue #70, DC's *Impulse* will have a new penciler: Carlo Barberi. The winner of the inaugural Draw a WIZARD cover contest (WIZARD #100) has also handled penciling chores on *Superman Annual* #12. "I plan on staying on the book for a while because I love the character and I think it's a very funny book," Barberi said.

Carlo Barberi: Paul Schiraldi

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JOHNNY ON THE SPOT

With 'Hulk', Romita Jr. gets closer to drawing entire Marvel Universe

Look out, puny Banner; the Hulk's changing his look again. *Amazing Spider-Man* and former *Thor* artist John Romita Jr. will take over art chores for *Incredible Hulk*, eventually replacing artist Ron Garney, who is leaving the book as of September's issue #20.

The move puts Romita, who's already drawn the adventures of many of Marvel's classic characters, one step closer to leaving his mark on the entire Marvel Universe.

"I always wanted to do all of the core Marvel books and Marvel characters, and the *Hulk* is another one of the core books," Romita said. "And I think my style fits the character well."

SET TO SMASH John Romita Jr. is the next man to walk the green mile.

Although Romita did not know when he would begin his *Hulk* run, he did say that it would be after he finishes November's *Amazing Spider-Man* #25, a fill-in issue of *Avengers* and possibly some *X-Men* work.

"I wanted to pick up a second title, in addition to doing *Spider-Man*, but I didn't want to do a group book because I really wanted to survive past 45. I thought doing a group book on top of doing *Spider-Man* would kill me," Romita said.

Garney, *Hulk*'s artist since the title's relaunch nearly two years ago, said that while difficulties renegotiating his contract with Marvel led to his departure, he was also interested in taking a vacation from comics.

"I want to take a couple of months off. I've been doing it now for over a decade without really a break. So I needed a vacation," Garney laughed.

Although he had hoped to stay on the title longer, Garney said he is pleased with Romita taking the artistic reins.

"If John's enthused about it, I think it's gonna be great. And the thing with John is, even if he's not enthused about it, it's gonna be great," Garney joked.

Upon returning to comics, Garney hopes to work on a creator-owned project. He also wants to tackle another powerful icon; this time, for Marvel's Distinguished Competition.

"I want to do something for Superman at some point. That's a character I really need to get out of my system." ■ **JASON WHEATLEY**

WS WILDSTORMWATCH

Like its name, WildStorm's bringing one heck of a hurricane through comics over the next few months. From a new manga line to the long awaited *Battle Chasers* #7, get ready for it to pour.

THE WILD BUNCH Just call us the perfect 'Storm.

● With manga-influenced comics growing more and more popular in the mainstream, WildStorm's working on the idea of starting a new manga line, which would team American writers with Asian artists. If the new *Racer X* comic by Jo Chen does well, this line may become reality in just a matter of months.

● The *Wildcats/Aliens* crossover, which saw most of Stormwatch die, was a big hit with fans and back issues are hard to find but don't expect to see them reprinted anytime soon. Since Aliens is a licensed property the reprint rights are stuck in red-tape hell, according to sources inside Dark Horse and WildStorm.

● Joe Madureira's long awaited *Battle Chasers* #7 will ship in December, according to the artist. After that, expect to see the title go bimonthly instead of its recent biannual ship dates.

● Fresh off the success of their *Legion Lost* run, Dan Abnett and Andy Lanning will launch a four-issue mini-series entitled *Jet* this September. The daughter of Backlash and a former member of Crimson, Jet picks up a new secret identity and a new outlook on life.

● *Stormwatch* spawned the mega-popular *Authority* and now it's spawning another title, the *Monarchy*. Series creators Doselle Young and John McCrea are keeping most of the details a secret but did say the series will pick up a number of the old *Stormwatch* members on the new team when the book launches this fall.

STARBURST *Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain*

BELIEVE IT OR NOT, FUNNYBOOKS MAY BE IN LEONARDO DICAPRIO'S BLOOD. HIS FATHER WAS AN AUTHOR OF AN UNDERGROUND COMIC DURING THE '60S AND CHILLED WITH UNDERGROUND ICONS LIKE ROBERT CRUMB AND STERLING MORRISON (THE VELVET UNDERGROUND).

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MARVEL DUSTS OFF DEFENDERS

'Non-team' receives makeover from Larsen, Busiek

The Defenders never looked like a team.

Sure, over the last 20 years, the Defenders consisted of a ragtag group of loose cannons and loners such as the Hulk, Hellcat and Nighthawk but they never had a chairman, a base of operations or meetings. But that's all about to change now that Erik Larsen's taking over.

Larsen—who's relaunching the title later this year—has heard it all about the Defenders, everything from them being labeled a "non-team" to the "team that wasn't."

His reaction? It's nonsense.

"This book will focus on a core group of characters—that's a team," the *Savage Dragon* creator demands. "There's no way you can be a non-team. I don't even know what the hell that is."

Larsen will pencil the team book and co-write it with Kurt Busiek. Larsen decided to team with Busiek because the *Avengers* writer came up with a cool way to keep the characters together issue after issue.

"These characters don't really like each other," Larsen said. "But Kurt came up with a neat idea of why they stay together. I won't say what it is...but it works really well."

Larsen promises cosmic-size villains and problems only a team with the Silver Surfer, Hulk, Sub-Mariner, Valkyrie, Dr. Strange, Hellcat and Nighthawk can handle. But it won't be all brawlin', Larsen promises. There'll be plenty of friction between long-time rivals Hulk and Sub-Mariner.

"When the Avengers show up everyone says, 'Oh, good, the Avengers are here. They'll save us,' But the Defenders?" Larsen chuckled. "When the Defenders show, everyone runs for their lives. Silver Surfer, Sub-Mariner, Hulk—all these guys have attacked the Earth. And then Dr. Strange is just creepy." ■ MC

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT "...and introducing our Minister of Smash, the Incredible Hulk."

INK BLOT TEST

TATTOO YOU

Sure, everyone knows Pamela Anderson sports a Barb Wire tattoo (pictured at left) which she got when filming the 1996 movie based on the Dark Horse Comic. But how well do you know other celebrities and their tattoos of superheroes or cartoon characters? Let's test your pop culture knowledge:

1. Shaquille O'Neal
2. Joey Fatone of 'N Sync
3. Andre Rison (pro football player)
4. Jon Bon Jovi
5. Damon Stoudamire (pro basketball player)
6. Corey Haim
7. David Spade
8. Mark Wahlberg
9. Whoopi Goldberg
10. Janet Jackson
11. Antonio Sabato Jr.
12. Caspar Van Dien

A. Mighty Mouse on arm
B. Batman symbol on back
C. Calvin from Calvin and Hobbes on arm
D. Woodstock from Peanuts
E. Sylvester and Tweety on ankle
F. Superman logo on left biceps
G. Superman on ankle
H. Spider-Man
I. Casper the Friendly Ghost
J. Superman logo on left biceps with words of Man of Steel
K. Batman symbol on shoulder
L. Mickey and Minnie Mouse

1-J, 2-G, 3-H, 4-F, 5-A, 6-K, 7-C, 8-E, 9-D, 10-L, 11-B, 12-I

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WHEN HE WAS IN THE FIRST GRADE, VAL KILMER'S MOM TOOK HIM TO VISIT THE SET OF THE 1960S "BATMAN" TV SERIES. REPORTEDLY, VAL ALMOST SAT IN THE COCKPIT OF GEORGE BARRIS', CUSTOM-BUILT, BUBBLE-DOMED BATMOBILE, BUT FOR SOME REASON, HE MISSED OUT.

© Stephen Wayda/Corbis Outline

WARREN ELLIS 'POWERS' UP

'Something incredibly awful' happens to Brit scribe

After eight years in the comic business, Warren Ellis has *become* a comic character.

The popular *Planetary* writer will guest-star in November's Image Comics *Powers #7*. "I did it 'cause it made me laugh, basically," said Ellis. "No more than that."

Powers writer Brian Michael Bendis will have the feisty Ellis tagging along with cops who investigate superhero murders. "Good writers go for ride-alongs with cops," Bendis said. "I've done it many times and I'm a good writer, right?" Ellis will be one such (loudmouthed) rider. "He's a pompous Brit who just won't shut up," said Bendis.

Ellis liked Bendis' style. "I only asked him to change just a few lines of dialogue to make me sound a bit more English," Ellis said. "He took a lot from my published columns and interviews, so in many cases I'm speaking verbatim."

While Ellis liked the script, he may not be fond of what happens in the story. "Something incredibly awful happens to him," Bendis said. "I won't spoil it, but I think it's a first."

So who's next on Bendis' guest list? Will, say, Chris Claremont drop by *Powers*? "Nah," Bendis concluded. "I don't want to turn this into the running joke. Warren is a one-time deal."

■ JIM McLAUCHLIN

WARREN PEACE Bad stuff happens to Warren Ellis (top) in the pages of *Powers*.

Stephen Ellison

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SHAKE PAM ANDERSON'S HAND

And while you're at it, buy her new 'V.I.P.' comic from Topps

Imagine shaking hands with Pamela Anderson at a comic convention.

Relax, fanboy, this isn't one of those daydreams that could make you go blind. The former *Baywatch* beauty and home-movie maven will be busting out at sci-fi and comic conventions to promote the new Topps comic based on her hit syndicated series, "V.I.P." You can meet the whole cast at the Comic Book and Science Fiction Convention at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles on September 17, with more dates slated for next year.

"V.I.P." has been labeled everything from a 21st century "Charlie's Angels" to "Baywatch" with guns. It has also proven to be a syndicated smash and huge moneymaker. That's why Topps owner Rich Marizio began negotiations two years ago to retain the rights to *V.I.P.* And unlike some of her more famous home videos, this book has been approved by Anderson, an executive producer on the show.

"V.I.P." revolves around Valerie Irons (Anderson)—a celebrity who joins a bodyguard agency. Every episode you can count on seeing gunfights—no one *ever* gets hurt—fist fights and the skimpiest outfits this side of a Victoria's Secret catalog. And all of it's done tongue-in-cheek, more like "Charlie's Angels" meets "The Three Stooges." Marc Patten, co-writer of the book, promises to keep the same feel while adding some new twists. "We've given them a kind of Danger Room for training in the comic," he says.

V.I.P. will feature almost exclusively photo covers; and like the show, "lots of pink chiffon."

Not too much, we hope. ■ **BEN CASSON**

CHECK OUT THOSE GUNS Is that a bulletproof vest under Pam's shirt?

© Columbia Tristar Television

A 'SUPERSTAR' IS BORN

Busiek's creation proves popularity equals power

STAR GAZER You better like Kurt Busiek's *Superstar*–or else!

Gorilla Comics' first superhero, Superstar, needs your support or he'll die.

Literally.

Though Cody (Superstar) Bridges would rather do anything *except* be in the public eye, his powers are linked to how much people like him. So Cody needs fans as much as his real life creators do.

Superstar marks Kurt Busiek and Stuart Immonen's second project for Gorilla and, more notable, their first superhero project for the imprint. And while Busiek says Gorilla isn't avoiding superheroes, they were intentionally passed by during the launch of the imprint.

"If we start out with superheroes, people think that's all we can do," said Busiek. "I had *Superstar* created before *Shockrockets*, but we wanted non-superhero projects just to show that we can do anything we want to do. Gorilla's goal is not to limit ourselves."

The 48-page one-shot, *Superstar: As Seen On TV*, tentatively slated for January, reveals how Cody tries to ride the fine line between being promoted and becoming just a product of the schemes of his father/publicist, Clayton Bridges, who Busiek describes as a cross between Ted Turner and J. Jonah Jameson.

"[Superstar's] the world's first politician superhero," said writer Busiek. "This is an idea I've been kicking around in my head since 1976." That's when a friend suggested the idea of a superhero who only exists when people believe in him.

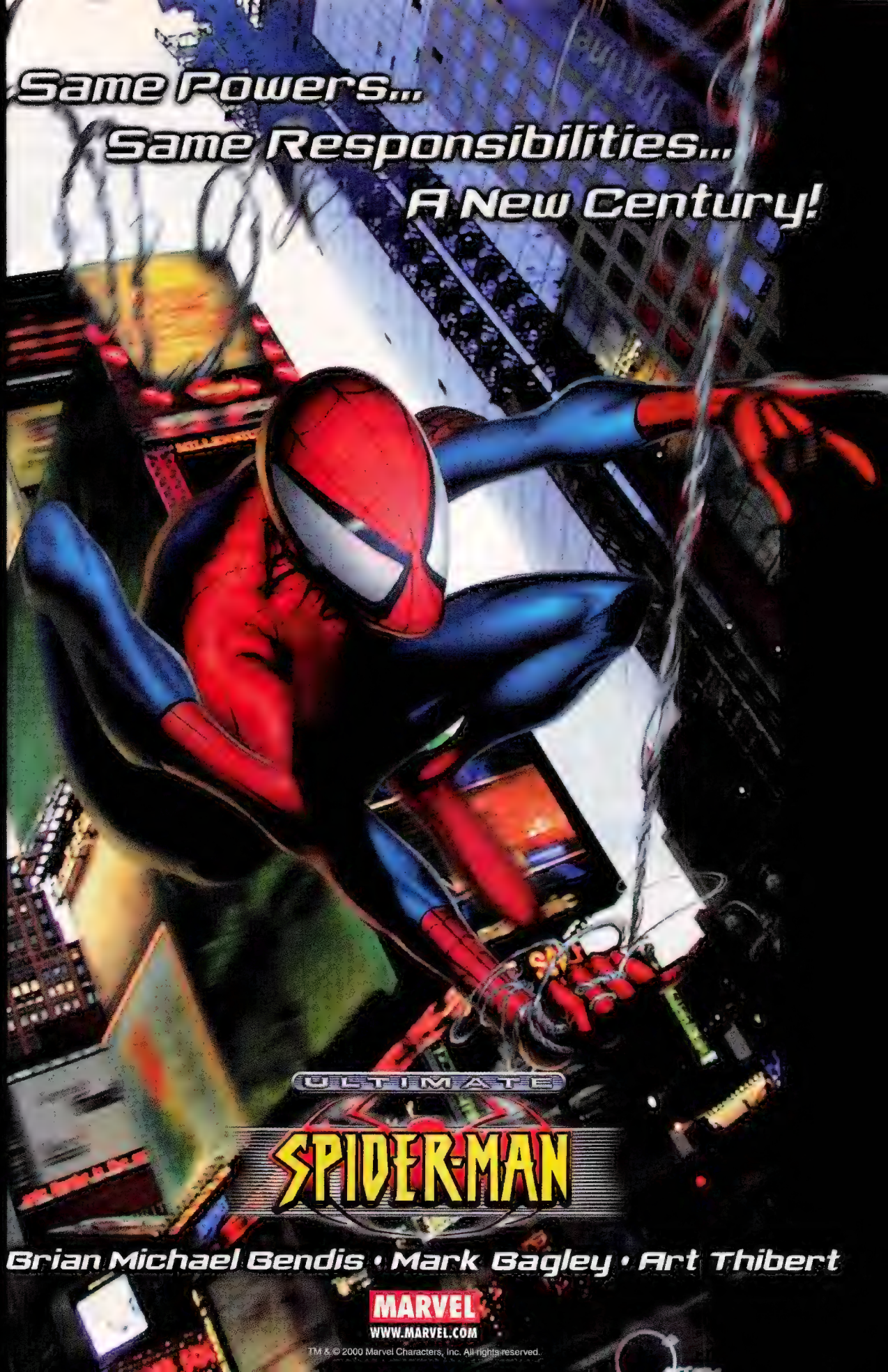
From that came *Superstar*, whose strength levels seem directly tied to his popularity base. If the people don't believe in him, he becomes weaker, making this one hero who has to take the spotlight out of necessity, rather than desire.

While Busiek assures that the one-shot won't be 48 pages of "Moral Dilemma 101," he promises "a bold and engaging real guy, not unlike Spider-Man" even though the book is "not completely a straightforward superhero story."

Busiek also pointed out that this was not a project he could have pursued at Marvel or DC. "He's the most famous superhero on the planet," said Busiek, "and essentially center stage would be pretty crowded." ■ **GEOFF KNIGHT**

STARBURST *Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain*

DURING HBO'S LIVE BROADCAST THIS PAST JULY OF 'N SYNC'S CONCERT AT NEW YORK CITY'S MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, CHRIS KIRKPATRICK COULD BE SEEN READING AN ISSUE OF IMAGE COMICS' *GEAR STATION* DURING ONE OF THE PREFILMED VIDEO SEGMENTS.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NEWSFLASHES

TURNER HOSPITALIZED Fan-favorite *Fathom* writer/artist Michael Turner was hospitalized on July 27, 2000 for emergency hip reconstruction surgery, the result of a prior snowboarding injury. Turner has vowed his remaining appearances will be rescheduled at a future date, as will upcoming issues of *Fathom*.

FISHNET FRENZY "Batman Beyond" co-producer Paul Dini writes and Jill Thompson (*Scary Godmother*) provides art for *Zatanna*, a two-issue Vertigo mini-series featuring DC's leggy magician launching in November.

WHITE HOT Fans of Oni Press' hard to find *Whiteout* and *Whiteout: Melt* by Greg Rucka and Steve Lieber need worry no longer–Oni's reprinted both mini-series in one hardcover edition signed by both creators.

CLAWS AND FISTS Wolverine and Iron Fist team up this fall when writer Jay Faerber and artist Jamal Young take the two on a search for Iron Fist's stolen powers in a three-issue mini-series. Faerber, who took away Iron Fist's powers in the pages of *New Warriors*, said it was just time to fix it.

WOLVERINE AND IRON FIST #1

X-SPOTS The planned expanded specials coinciding with Alex Ross's *Universe X* maxi-series have themselves been expanded. With *Iron Man, 4, X-Tales* and *Captain America* issues already planned a *Spider-Man* special has now been added to take place between *Universe X* #4–#5.

GETTING BONED The long awaited *Rose* three-issue mini-series by *Bone* creator Jeff Smith and Charles Vess will launch this September. The three 48-page fully painted books will chronicle the life of Gran'ma Ben of *Bone*.

ROSS ON QVC On September 9, Alex Ross will appear on QVC to debut the home shopping network's exclusive lithograph "Origins of Batman Beyond" ($95). Painted and signed by Ross, the unframed litho shows Batman, Robin, Batgirl, Nightwing, Joker and Batman Beyond. Also keep your eyes peeled for Ross' "JLA Christmas" plate for $35. Check local listings for exact time. ■ THE *WIZARD* STAFF

ME AND THE COMMISH

Fifth-week event determines whether Batman can pass Jim class

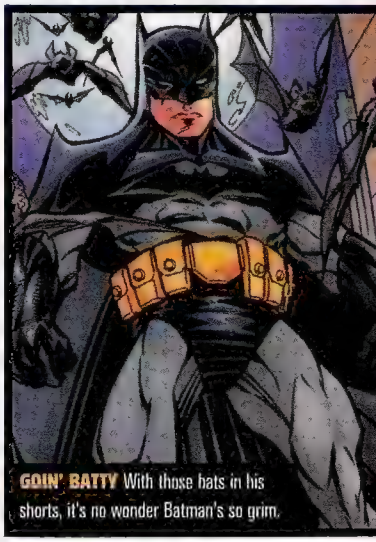
Failed marriages, murdered partners, crippled nieces, broken backs and destroyed cities—Jim Gordon and Batman have been through it all. Now find out how it all affected them and their friendship.

Starting in November, DC Comics launches "Turning Points" a fifth-week event exploring different times and crises in the Batman/Gordon relationship. The event will be headed up by writers Greg Rucka (*Detective Comics*), Ed Brubaker (*Batman*) and Chuck Dixon (*Nightwing*).

"We're kind of rewriting history a little," Brubaker said.

Rucka deals with Gordon and Batman's relationship just after the events in *Batman: Year One*. Brubaker handles the first meeting between Robin and Gordon and the day after Barbara Gordon is paralyzed by the Joker. Dixon focuses on Gordon and Batman dealing with the ramifications of the "KnightsEnd" storyline where Batman was replaced by Azrael. Rucka returns with part five of the event, which updates Batman and Gordon's current relationship.

"This story's going to have some lasting effects," *Batman* editor Bob Schreck said. "It's going to all build into other stories in the future. I won't say much more but be on the lookout for how this affects Batman and Gordon later." ■ MC



GOIN' BATTY With those hats in his shorts, it's no wonder Batman's so grim.

HEATINDEX

WHAT'S HOT THIS MONTH

Just because summer's coming to an end doesn't mean it won't be hot. This September's burning up with changes in the JLA lineup as well as overheating with the launch of J. Michael Straczynski's new line of comics. Here's a rundown of the events that will sizzle this September.

JLA MEETS 'SURVIVOR' With the shocking events of writer Mark Waid's "Tower of Babel" storyline in *JLA*, the league voted out one of its founding members, 'Survivor'-style. As of issue #46, the most powerful team in the DC Universe finds itself adjusting to losing one of its linchpins.

HANGING ON EVERY ISSUE For over a year, fans have debated who the Hangman is stalking Gotham cops in Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale's *Batman: Dark Victory*. Now as issue #12 hits stands, the case is finally solved.

NOT YOUR AVERAGE JOE Fans can't get enough of J. Michael Straczynski's *Rising Stars* and his newest project *Midnight Nation* promises to be just as popular. With the story of one good cop in search of his soul, JMS isn't just launching the biggest book of the year–but also his own imprint called Joe's Comics.

IT'S HIP TO BE SQUARE Square Soft's *Vagrant Story* blew away video game fans and now comic fans are feeling the gusts as well with the *Vagrant Story* comic book. This new Top Cow property, written by John Nguyen and penciled by Clarence Lansing along with an alternate cover by *Fathom*'s Michael Turner, takes fans further into the video game than ever before and leaves them gasping for air.

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

ACCORDING TO "CLERKS" DIRECTOR KEVIN SMITH, HE HAD ACTOR WALTER FLANAGAN'S SIDEBURNS SPRAY-PAINTED WHITE FOR HIS EGGMAN SCENE—"LIKE REED RICHARDS OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR"—SO AS TO DIFFERENTIATE HIM FROM THE THREE OTHER ROLES HE PLAYED..

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THE BIG HIT

Countdown begins for the final shot of Garth Ennis' 'Hitman'

The end of *Preacher* got you down? Are you sitting around gnawing your fingernails off 'cause you can't sate your monthly craving for the Garth Ennis brand of *über*-violence?

Then check out *Hitman*, Ennis' remaining DC ongoing, which kicks things into a higher (and yes, bloodier) gear in anticipation of its own impending climax. Ennis caps the gun-toting tale of hired-killer-with-a-heart Tommy Monaghan early next year, as the series heads for the long dirt nap with issue #60 in February 2001.

"The final storyline will wrap things up in a more final way than *Preacher*," Ennis said. "In a much more final way, in fact."

Called "Closing Time," the last *Hitman* tale not only finishes the story of Monaghan and friends, it starts it, too. Ennis promised the eight-issue arc (which began with *Hitman* #53) will fill in the blanks surrounding the book's main characters.

"We've never really had Tommy's origin," the writer said. "We've seen how he got his superpowers and we've seen what happened with his mother and father, but we've never really seen much of his early life...what led him to become a hitman.

"This story will fill in all the details for people so they can see what brought our heroes to this point."

"Closing Time" will be a reunion of sorts, a compilation of the book's greatest hits (no pun intended), as a number of old characters slink back out of the proverbial woodwork.

"There'll be old villains coming back to haunt the boys, old allies and some surprise appearances, too," Ennis said. "Hopefully, people will find it ties everything up while giving them enough new stuff to get their teeth into."

And violence? Oh, yeah. Ennis'll give 'em plenty of that.

"Let's just say the book has not seen its last fatality," he laughed. "This book is going out with a bang. As to who goes out and who doesn't, you'll just have to read it and see."

As for Ennis himself, he regrets seeing *Hitman* end. While he's always planned "Closing Time" as his *Hitman* finale, he admitted the arc's hitting the comic shops a bit earlier than he expected.

"I felt I could have written *Hitman* for about another year...but it was not to be," he said. "But for a book that features a lead character who's not a superhero, that takes place on the edge of the superhero universe, that has neither the morality nor the outlook of a regular comic book, I think five years is pretty f—king good." CL

LAST CALL So long Tommy, we hardly knew ya...

IN MEMORIAM

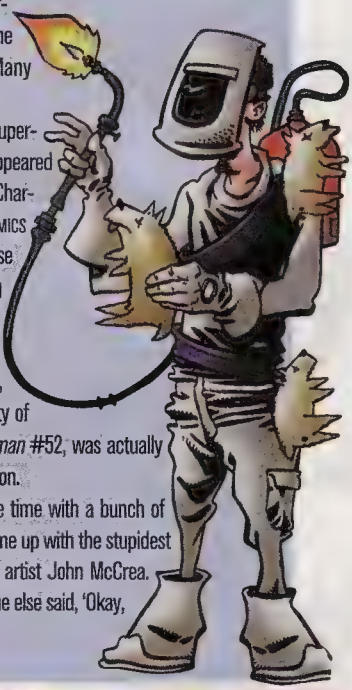
DOGWELDER: 1997-2000

The comic world mourns the loss of one of its brightest stars. Dogwelder, the...umm, dog-welding hero who split fans' sides with laughter in the pages of *Hitman*, met an untimely end earlier this summer at the hands of the other-dimensional threat of the Many Angled Ones.

Dogwelder, a member of the superhero team Section Eight, who first appeared in *Hitman* #18, won the Best New Character Award from WIZARD: THE COMICS MAGAZINE two years ago, mainly because of his oddball technique for fighting crime–welding dogs to the faces of evildoers.

The welder's mask-wearing hero, who perished along with the majority of his Section Eight teammates in *Hitman* #52, was actually created by *Preacher* artist Steve Dillon.

"Steve was sitting at a pub one time with a bunch of mates and they were all trying to come up with the stupidest superhero name ever," said *Hitman* artist John McCrea. "Steve said, 'Dogwelder,' and everyone else said, 'Okay, Steve. You win.' " CL



STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

PRODUCER JON PETERS DEMANDED KEVIN SMITH ADD A GIANT SPIDER INTO THE SCRIPT FOR THE NEVER-PRODUCED "SUPERMAN LIVES" FEATURE, BECAUSE HE'D SEEN ONE IN HIS DAUGHTER'S SCHOOL PLAY. SMITH BALKED, BUT A HUGE MECHANICAL SPIDER FOUND ITS WAY INTO PETERS' NEXT FILM, "WILD, WILD WEST."

ALONG CAME A SPIDER-MAN...

Director Raimi tabs Tobey Maguire to star in 'Spider-Man' film

Don't put away those fanboy dollars just yet, kids.

Hot on the heels of Fox's blockbuster success with "X-Men," Sony Pictures and director Sam Raimi cast Tobey Maguire ("Cider House Rules," "Pleasantville") as Peter Parker in the upcoming "Spider-Man" movie.

Maguire reportedly worked on screen tests up until only three days before being cast. Young stars such as Freddie Prinze Jr. ("She's All That") and Wes Bentley ("American Beauty") expressed interest in playing the wall-crawler but Raimi ("Evil Dead," "A Simple Plan") fell in love with Maguire. Maguire has netted a lucrative deal for "Spider-Man," reported to be worth $3-4 million and he's signed on for two sequels.

Most of Maguire's in-costume work will be done by a stuntman, and CG effects will make Maguire as agile as an arachnid. Raimi did confirm one special effect—that Spider-Man would not use mechanical web shooters but have biological webbing shoot directly out of his wrists.

Some rabid fans have deemed the change sacrilege, going as far as to set up Websites to convince Raimi that mechanical web shooters are an integral part of the Spider-Man mythos.

To help iron out "Spider-Man" details, painter Alex Ross (*Kingdom Come*, *Marvels*) worked on early costume and character designs for the film. Early costume sketches have shown large black eyes on the Spider-Man costume instead of the large white lenses fans are used to seeing in the comic book.

With Maguire cast, focus now shifts to Doctor Octopus and the Green Goblin, the villains confirmed for the feature. Rumors have surfaced recently that Laurence Fishburne ("Matrix") has been approached to play Doc Ock and former "Superman" contender Nicolas Cage and Kevin Costner are interested in the role of the Green Goblin.

Decisions on villains casts should be made quickly, though, since shooting of the movie begins in November in New York for a November 2001 release date. ■ MC

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SPIDEY CENTS And dollars. Lots of 'em. Tobey gets $3-4 million to play a geek.

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STARS SIGN FOR SEQUEL

But will director Singer return to see Beast, Gambit in next film?

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN The X-cast (above, at the film's New York City premiere July 13) signed for a a second film, but not so for Singer (right).

Al Ortega

HALLE BERRY

STAN LEE (LEFT) AND TYLER MANE

UNLEASH THE BEAST Singer favorites Beast (above) and the Sentinels (left) could in appear in "X-Men 2."

For years, Twentieth Century Fox has been looking for a franchise that'd guarantee ticket sales. July 14, they found it.

The astounding box office receipts for the "X-Men" opening weekend ($54.5 million, sixth largest debut of all time) had studio execs meeting to discuss sequels less than a week after the film's release.

In other words, the sequels, they are a comin'.

While director Bryan Singer hasn't yet formally agreed to return to the world of Wolverine, Cyclops and Rogue, the stars of "X-Men" have all signed on for at least one more mutant movie.

And each of those stars has their own little agenda for "X-Men II." Famke Janssen touched upon the possibility of incorporating elements from the "Dark Phoenix" saga. Anna Paquin wants to see

Rogue develop more of a combat persona. And Halle Berry...well, she'd like Storm to get a date.

"Somebody please be interested in her," the Golden Globe-winning actress jokingly pleaded. "Next time, maybe she'll have a little love."

Should Singer return, it's a pretty safe bet that the blue-furred Beast will be the next X-Man to make the jump to the big screen—and he might just bounce around the Danger Room. Both Beast and the X-Men's training ground were reportedly included in early versions of the original, but budgetary constraints caused them to be cut.

"Ultimately, certain characters are larger than other characters...that's part of it," Singer said. "That's okay. In the next movie, the Danger Room gets built and other characters that I miss terribly, that I wish I could have had in this picture, get to show up."

So don't be surprised to see Gambit and Nightcrawler, two of Singer's other favorites, pop up in an X-flick to come.

As for the bad guys, most of the Brotherhood seemed to survive the original, so it's possible they could return in a sequel. But if "X-Men II" isn't "The Return of Magneto," odds are the Sentinels will be the next onscreen opponents of Xavier's superpowered students.

Singer went to great lengths to establish the sense of conflict between man and mutant in "X-Men," and the director has stated he would like to build on that and introduce the mutant-hunting robots in a follow-up film.

"Yes," Singer said, prior to the film's release. "The villain [in the sequel] would be man. Mankind." ■ **CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE**

STACKINGUP

WE WON'T SEE A DIME

Wanna know what "X-Men" has to do to measure up the other big comic movies? Check out the domestic grosses (in millions) of these flicks, adjusted with inflation of ticket prices since they were released.

BATMAN (1989)
DOMESTIC GROSS: $299.67 ($251.2*)

SUPERMAN: THE MOVIE (1978)
DOMESTIC GROSS: $272.44 ($134.2*)

MEN IN BLACK (1997)
DOMESTIC GROSS: $266.35 ($250.1*)

X-MEN (2000)
DOMESTIC GROSS: ?????**

*Actual domestic gross.
**Dr. Evil estimates *one billion dollars.*
(Statistics taken from **the-movie-times.com**.)

DETAILS, DETAILS

LOOK WHAT WE FOUND

"X-Men": The best comic-movie ever? Maybe, but what it definitely succeeded in doing is filling the movie with enough comic book tributes to have fanboys buzzing for months to come. The top 10 coolest:

- That's Jubilee sitting next to Rogue in class, wearing her trademark yellow trench coat & dangling earrings.
- The big kid at the X-School painting in the background as the other mutant runs across the water...that's none other than **COLOSSUS!**

- Senator Kelly's aide–Henry Peter Gyrich–is an actual Marvel Comics character who acts as a government liaison for the comics' Sen. Kelly in mutant affairs (though in the movie credits his name is misspelled "Guyrich").
- The student who controls fire in the X-mansion is named "John" just like the mutant Pyro whose real name is St. John Allerdyce.
- Rogue's first name revealed for the first time anywhere: Marie!
- Mutant at the X-School with blue hair...a young Hank McCoy?
- Fat kid in doorway when Wolvie stabs Rogue...the Blob?
- Sabretooth is obsessed with Wolverine's dogtags...as a trophy OR is it that he heralds from the same Weapon X program that made Wolvie? Does he recognize the tags and Wolvie?
- Just a small sumthin' sumthin', but the X-mansion's address is the same as the comics': 1407 Greymalkin Lane, Salem Center, Westchester, NY.
- A "thanks" to X-creators Stan Lee and Jack Kirby at the end of the credits. Not really a hidden item, but it's great to see Hollywood give two of comics' greatest creators their props. ■ **THE WIZARD STAFF**

NAKEDSENATORS

GOOFY X-MOVIE GAFFES

What fun is it talking about how great a movie is if you can't pick on it, too? Okay, while we loved the X-flick more than we love Rebecca Romijn-Stamos in scales, here's some of the X-stuff that we found kinda silly...

- The government has an all-plastic jail cell at the ready? AND it's wheelchair accessible? Now THAT'S thinkin' ahead!
- "What's your name?" "Rogue." WHAT? Who runs away from home and then gives themselves a code name?
- Why isn't anyone surprised to see a prominent U.S. senator like Robert Kelly emerge from the Long Island surf buck naked?
- Why must every comic movie have the obligatory bad line? Storm to Toad: "Do you know what happens when a toad gest struck by lightning? The same as everything else." Ugh.
- During the Canadian bar scene, the guy who got his ass kicked by Wolvie guesses that Logan's a mutant 'cause he's not all banged up after the fight...ISN'T THIS THE GUY WHO NOW SPORTS A BROKEN HAND AND A CONCUSSION FROM THAT SAME FIGHT? AND HE'S FINE! MUTANT! MUTANT! MUTANT! ■ **THE WIZARD STAFF**

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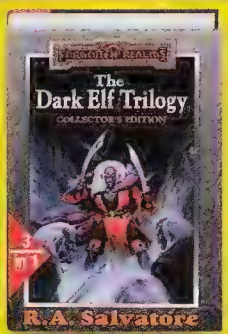

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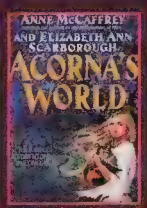

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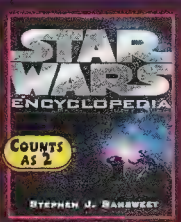

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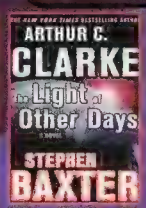

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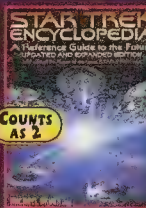

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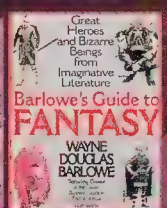

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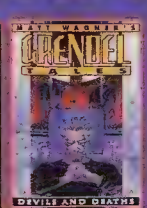

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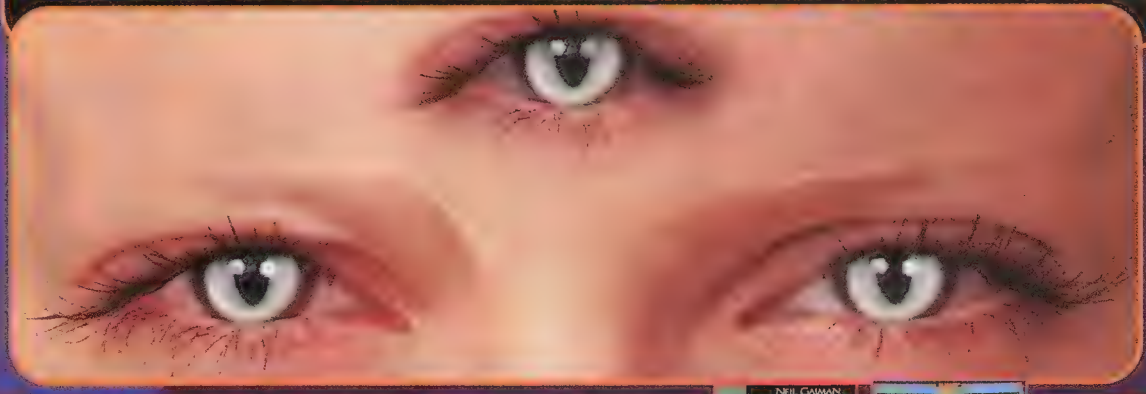

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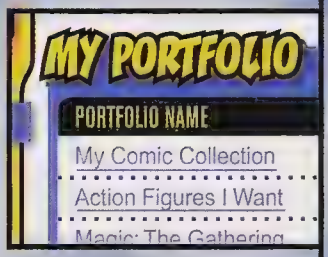

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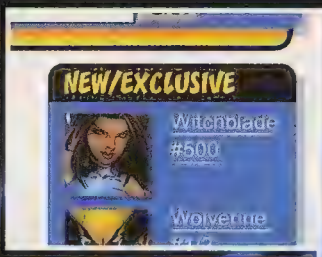

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EXCLUSIVE MERCHANDISE

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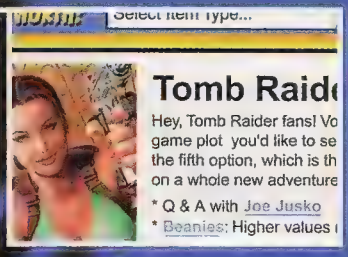
WizardWorld.com is your one-stop source for fast-action information. When news is made, we're there to give it to you *before* it goes public. And our staff of expert celebrity columnists is on board to give you analysis that matters and opinions that'll make you think—Every day.


Tomb Raid
Hey, Tomb Raider fans! Vo
game plot you'd like to se
the fifth option, which is th
on a whole new adventure
* Q & A with Joe Jusko
* Beanies: Higher values

BREAKING NEWS

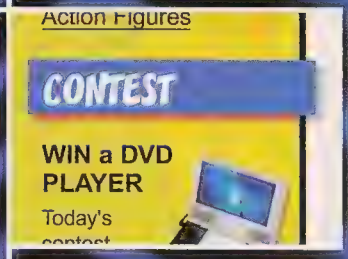
MARKET ANALYSIS

MARKET ANALYSIS

WizardWorld.com delivers exclusive analysis direct to your screen. Every day, view the biggest market gains and drops by percentage *and* dollar value in each of our collectible categories—comics, action figures, *Magic: The Gathering*, and Pokémon. And spot trends with **WizardWorld.com**'s price analysis charts. See where a comic or action figure's price has been... and maybe you can figure out where it's going.

CONTESTS

The new **WizardWorld.com** is burstin' with daily and weekly contests! There's cool swag to be won just for showing up and playing a part. Rare *Magic* cards, cool action figures, original comic art—it could all be yours.



CONTESTS

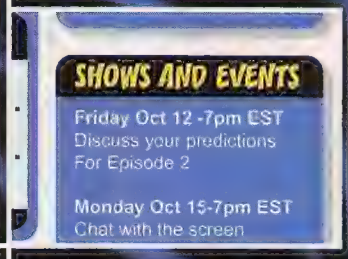
COMMUNITIES

COMMUNITIES

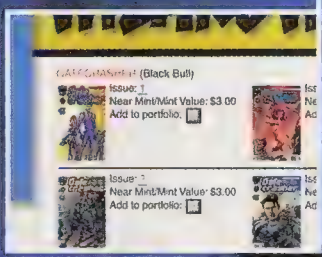
Real community with dynamic message boards, cool chat, and great clubs? It's here. Get on board early and you could become a big wheel and community leader.

EVENT CALENDARS

Need a date? Sure you do. We'll give you 30 a month, on average. **WizardWorld.com**'s collectibles calendars let you know what's going on every day of the year—major releases, big-time auctions, conventions—plus events for each community



EVENT CALENDARS



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PICTURE GALLERIES

Ever wonder what the cover of *Batman* #33 looks like? Or a Beta Black Lotus? Yeah, us too. So we got 'em. Now you can see 'em. **WizardWorld.com**'s exclusive picture galleries contain tens of thousands of images of rare and valuable collectibles. The best of everything is yours to see, anytime you want.

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BAM BAM

LAST MAN STANDING

comic battles you never thought you'd see

SPACE GHOST VS. THE TICK

THE COMBATANTS

TALE OF THE TAPE

6'2"	HEIGHT	6'4"
210 lbs.	WEIGHT	300 lbs.
72"	REACH	74"
CHIN	PROMINENT FEATURE	CHIN
GRAVY LADLE	FAVORITE UTENSIL	SPOON!

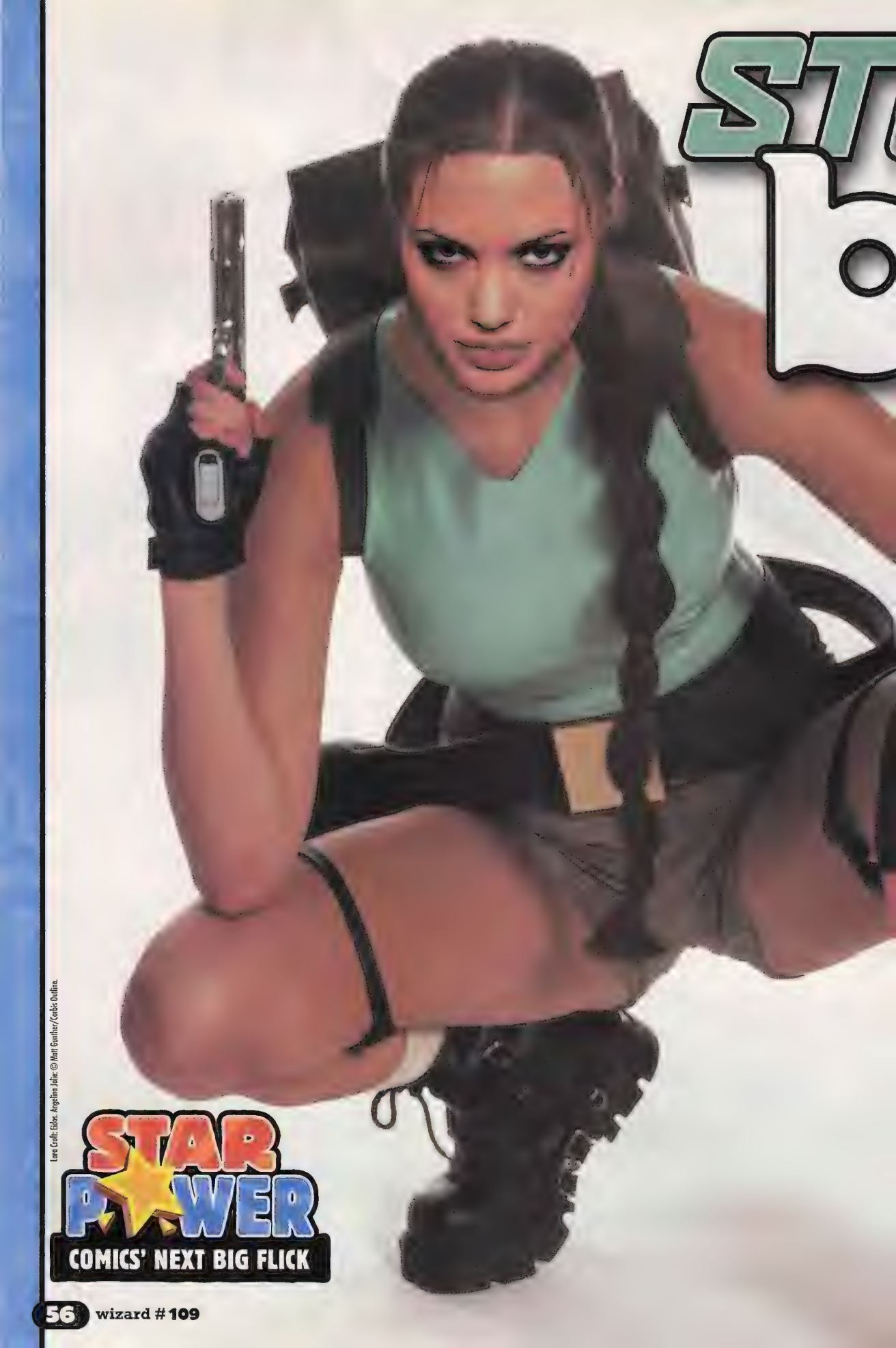
A decade after retiring from crimefighting as Space Ghost, Tad Ghostal now hosts his own talk show, "Space Ghost Coast to Coast," where, to this day, he befuddles celebrity guests and stretches the boundaries of good taste with his cosmic powers and witty rejoinders!

His origin unknown, The Tick's heroic career reportedly started as an escaped mental patient from the Evanstown Asylum in Minnesota. These days, wherever evil sets its giant, ill-smelling foot, you will find The Tick, tough as a brick and nigh-invulnerable!

the battle... During a galactic mission to repair the Chairface Chippendale-damaged moon, The Tick is accidentally blasted into deep space. Crash-landing on the Ghost Planet during an "SGC2C" taping, The Tick completely throws off Space Ghost's timing with celebrity guest Zsa Zsa Gabor. His interview ruined, Space Ghost starts chiding The Tick for his ill-timed entrance and insectile appearance. The Tick doesn't take kindly to teasing, and promptly smashes up Space Ghost's beloved interview set. In an effort to obfuscate The Tick, Space Ghost quickly turns invisible. But with his highly tuned sense of justice, The Tick sniffs out Space Ghost and starts a-pounding until Space Ghost activates his force-field ray, protecting him from the severe beating. Unfortunately, the nine-volt battery powering his force field quickly drains, allowing the nigh-invulnerable Tick to punch Space Ghost into submission. The Tick flies off triumphant, as Space Ghost has the last laugh—he fires Brak and Zorak for booking such an unruly guest in the first place.

AGREE? DISAGREE? Well, let us know! And while you're at it, send us your ideas for future Last Man Standing battles! Just e-mail us at: lastmanstanding@wizardworld.com. THANKS!

this month's battle drawn by STEVE RUDE



STAR POWER

COMICS' NEXT BIG FLICK

Lara Croft: Eidos. Angelina Jolie: © Matt Gunther/Corbis Outline.

Stealing Beauty

Wild child Angelina Jolie steals relics and hearts alike as the star of *Tomb Raider*

Angelina Jolie's no stranger to danger.

She collects knives. No less than *nine* tattoos adorn her otherwise flawless body—if you're lucky enough to catch a glimpse, you may see a dragon, or the Japanese symbol for death, or the name of Jolie's husband (actor Billy Bob Thornton). She showed up to her first wedding wearing tight black pants and a white T-shirt with her groom's name written in her own blood.

In fact, Jolie claims she took the role of Lara Croft—star of the *Tomb Raider* video games and comic book—for one simple reason: revenge. Her first husband, Jonny Lee Miller, was reportedly "obsessed" with playing the first *Tomb Raider* game! "Jonny used to play *Tomb Raider* all the time, and I used to compete with this woman," said Jolie. "Taking on this part is a woman's revenge, isn't it?"

With her vengence on Miller carried out, Jolie faces another daunting challenge in tackling the role of Lara Croft: pulling off a convincing British accent.

And while Jolie's English diction may need some work, she's already revving up her body for the demanding physical part.

"I'm doing *so much* in this film," exclaimed Jolie. The Lara-to-be underwent extensive training before and during filming, in areas as diverse as "bungee ballet, diving, weapons training with Special Forces, kickboxing," revealed Jolie. "Everything from soccer to rowing...I get up and do yoga at 7:30 in the morning." And get this—the filmmakers put the kibosh on Jolie's nightlife by giving her an 11 p.m. curfew during filming to keep her fresh, focused and out of trouble—which means no wild partying for Jolie until after the shoot (after all, we can't have our Lara injured!).

The dangerously sexy Jolie delivers a unique mix of exotic beauty, seductive demeanor and kick-ass attitude to the role of everyone's favorite gun-toting treasure hunter in 2001, when "Tomb Raider" leaps from computer screens to the silver screen. One look at the Academy Award-winning actress will tell ya—it's a match made in casting heaven. If you somehow manage to wrench your eyes up and away from Angelina's killer body (a definite must for the busty Lara), you'll behold an angelic face with the slightest hint of mischief in those playful eyes and downright naughty lips.

Still, you need more than attitude and looks to snag the role of the greatest archaeologist/adventurer since Indiana Jones. The competition for the role says it all—Jolie beat out a slew of other actresses, including Hollywood heavyweights like Liz Hurley, Heather Graham and Catherine Zeta-Jones. The daughter of veteran actor Jon Voight ain't just another pretty face, and the Oscar she earned for her offbeat performance in "Girl, Interrupted" proves her Hollywood pedigree. Let's face it—in searching for someone to fill Lara's shoes (not to mention her tank top), it would've been all too easy to fall into the "Barb Wire" trap by placing a premium on breasts over brains. Thankfully, the filmmakers dodged that bullet and gave Jolie the nod for her talent (as well as her physical gifts). Expect to see an intelligent Lara who thinks on her toes.

by RICHARD HO

"Lara's very British," Jolie said when discussing the mega-popular video game icon. "She was raised really proper and she has a very proper voice, but it's been broken down. She has very proper manners, but they've been broken down as well." This means the free-spirited Jolie may have to work on her etiquette. "They're going to send me to manners school," laughed Jolie.

But what Jolie lacks in manners, she makes up for in other ways. After all, Lara's a girl of action, and fans of the game are accustomed to seeing her jump, flip and shoot her way through treacherous cliffs and caverns—which means Jolie does a whole lot of the same in the movie. Her list of stunts, which includes climbing, sky-diving, fighting and swimming with eels, would make even Jackie Chan think twice about going to work in the morning.

As for the story itself? Details are rarer than the Medusa Mask, and those in the know are feverishly guarding their secrets. As always, however, rumors abound. Some say the original script by screenwriters Patrick Massett and John Zinman looks a lot like "Indiana Jones: Raiders of the Lost Ark." The story reportedly picks up where the third Tomb Raider game left off and follows Lara's pursuit of the Achilles Shield in Antarctica and Asia. It's also been rumored that Michael Werb and Michael Colleary (the scribes behind "Face/Off") worked on a rewrite with director Simon West (whose prior credits include "Con Air" and "The General's Daughter").

Though principal photography for the six-month shoot began in early July at England's Pinewood Studios (where the Bond films were shot), everyone outside the production remains in the dark. We *do* know the film's opening sequence will be a spectacular one, featuring Lara scaling the 200-foot tall Millennium Wheel, the giant Ferris wheel that recently opened along the River Thames in London. Oh, and one more nugget from the rumor mill: Actors Brian Blessed and Rene Russo may make brief cameos as Lara's parents, presumably in some sort of flashback sequence.

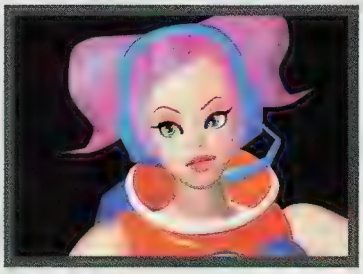
But despite the veil of mystery surrounding the production, "Tomb Raider" has the look of a winner. Sure, it has all the key elements of a Hollywood hit—fast-paced action, mystery and adventure. But more importantly, it spotlights two of the hottest women around in Angelina Jolie and Lara Croft. After all, what better way to make a killing at the box office than to pair the digital fantasy of millions with the real-life fantasy of millions?

Besides, killing's very easy when that fantasy lady loves knives.

New York-based freelancer Richard Ho's a big fan of utensils, too. But his favorite food tool is the spork.

hot buttered ROLES!

Angelina Jolie as Lara Croft? WIZARD casts some other hot babes in video games for their big screen debut. (And which pick do you like the best? Vote on wizardworld.com right now!)



GWEN STEFANI AS ULALA

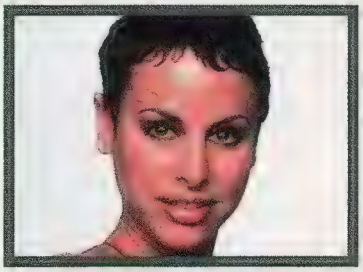
The pink-haired, singing hottie from *Space Channel 5* can only be played by the pink-haired, singing hottie from No Doubt, Gwen Stefani.

JAIME PRESSLY AS TINA

Former *Playboy* Playmate and aspiring actress Jaime Pressly sports a bitchin', athletic physique, so she's a natural to play the lovely yet lethal Tina from *Dead Alive 2*, the vicious fighting game for Dreamcast and PS2.

ALYSSA MILANO AS JILL VALENTINE

Alyssa Milano fought an overbearing dad on "Who's the Boss" and supernatural menaces on "Charmed." She'll need that experience to play the zombie-dispatching cop Jill Valentine from *Resident Evil 3: Nemesis.*



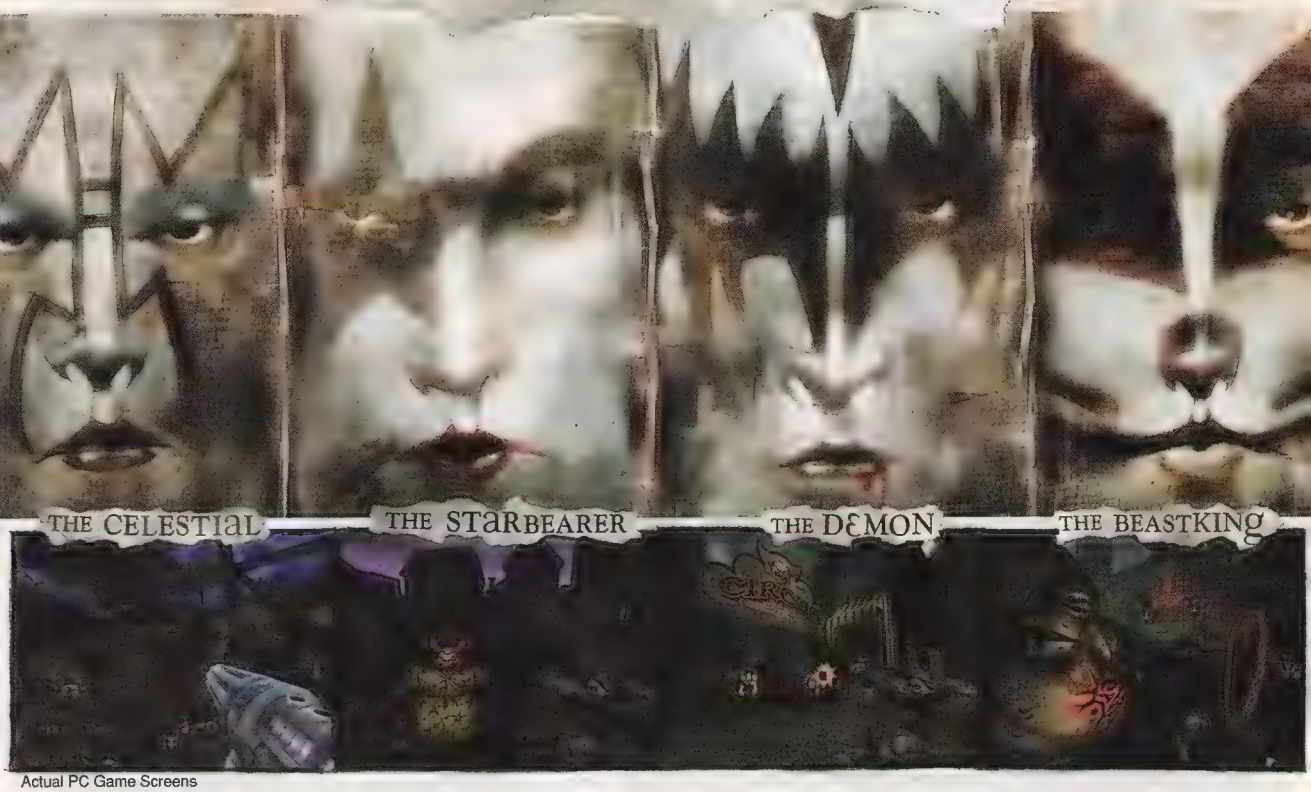
NATALIE RAITANO AS JOANNA DARK

The role of super-assassin Joanna Dark from *Perfect Dark* requires both beauty and brains, and Natalie Raitano ("V.I.P") proves she's got both every week on the syndicated babe-fest.

Gwen Stefani, Jaime Pressly, Alyssa Milano, Natalie Raitano © Everett Collection.

RESPECT YOUR ELDERS...

OR KISS YOUR ASS GOODBYE.



Actual PC Game Screens

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MONSTER MASH The very anti-social Hulk and Ghost Rider join Punisher, Marvel Boy and Daredevil for Marvel Knights Year Three.

Illustration by Joe Quesada, Mark Morales and Atomic Paintbrush

Grant Morrison tackles the Fantastic Four, Kevin Smith returns, and Garth Ennis writes...well, we can't tell you everything about Marvel Knights Year Three

By Christopher Lawrence

MARVEL BOYZ

Lonely at the top? Not a chance.

With the hottest characters (Punisher, Daredevil), the hottest creators (Garth Ennis, Grant Morrison, Phil Winslade) and the hottest projects (*Marvel Boy*, *Daredevil: Yellow*) in the industry, it's easy to see why Marvel Knights attracts more and more star talent. WIZARD rapped with Knights head honcho Joe Quesada to see what comics' No. 1 imprint has on tap for the future.

Will Garth Ennis and Steve Dillon ever do more *Punisher*?

They just might.

With comic stores selling out of Ennis and Dillon's *Punisher* faster than Frank Castle can empty a clip, it's a surefire bet comics' hottest character will return, whether in more mini-series or an ongoing.

Although Ennis has said he's not likely to do another ongoing once *Hitman* ends next year, he's got no plans to abandon Marvel's gun-toting, take-no-prisoners hero anytime soon.

"If *Punisher* became [an ongoing series], I'd probably pop back from time to time, do a few issues here and there," he says–working with partner-in-crime Dillon, of course.

Will Kevin Smith return?

Absolutely.

"Clerks" writer/director Smith helped Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti launch Marvel Knights in 1998 by penning *Daredevil*'s best-selling initial storyarc, and has always maintained he'd like to take another stab at the title. In fact, Quesada, who vows Smith's "definitely coming back," has already spoken extensively with the director/fanboy about his next Man Without Fear storyline, which could be in the hands of comic geeks around the world as early as next summer.

Will they ever make a Daredevil movie?

All signs point to "Yes."

With this summer's "X-Men" steamrolling through the box office like the Juggernaut in a china shop and "Spider-Man" looming on the horizon for 2001, there's no reason why New Regency Productions wouldn't exercise its option for a Daredevil film, which it acquired earlier this year.

DD's already got some strong supporters in Hollywood, like Smith, actor Matt Damon ("Dogma") and director John Singleton ("Shaft"), who told reporters at the "X-Men" premiere party that'd *he'd* like to helm a flick about the Man Without Fear.

Is Ennis the new golden boy at the Knights?

Yes, Quesada chuckles, but that's not saying much.

"He's the Golden Boy wherever he goes," Quesada says. "Garth writes a story and people just want to read it."

Need proof? Ennis' *Punisher* mini-series continues to make the top 10 every month, and collections of his recently completed *Preacher* series continually sit atop the industry's bestseller list.

Ennis shapes up to be one of the Knights' most popular contributors. Of course, teaming him with artists like Joe Jusko (*Punisher/Painkiller Jane*), John McCrea (*Hulk Smash*) and Steve Dillon (*Punisher*) doesn't hurt, either.

"There's something about him and Steve [Dillon] doing *Punisher*–there's something really sick about those guys," Quesada laughs.

Would Ennis ever write a mutant title for Marvel Knights?

Sheathe those claws, bub.

Ennis once fielded an offer to write an X-Men story, but couldn't make heads or tails of Marvel's mutants.

"I read about all these ridiculously dressed characters doing unlikely things and talking and talking and talking while they did it," he said. "It was the weirdest damn experience."

The Knights cast Logan in 1999's *Wolverine/Punisher: Revelation* mini-series, but really haven't dealt with mutants ever since–a fact Quesada says won't be changing in the near future, Ennis or no.

Will Marvel Knights get the Ultimate treatment?

The Teen Without Fear?

Not likely.

Marvel expects its new "Ultimate" titles, starting with *Ultimate Spider-Man* and *Ultimate X-Men* debuting later this year, to pull in new readers by introducing them to younger, more modern versions of the company's most popular characters. But Quesada and Bill Jemas, Marvel's President of Publishing & New Media (and "Ultimate" guru), agree that–so far–a title like *Daredevil* really doesn't need the "ground zero" treatment.

"What would you do differently with Daredevil? Would you make him younger?" Quesada asks. "Would Matt Murdock be more appealing as a college student? No."

Is Quesada Marvel's MVP?

If he ain't already, he should be.

Quesada edits two of Marvel's top 20 books (*Punisher*, *Daredevil*), writes a third (*Iron Man*), and pulls in hot talent like it's going out of style.

He snagged Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale for *Daredevil: Yellow*, an upcoming mini-series looking at the early days of the Man Without Fear, and he recommended writers Brian Michael Bendis and Mark Millar to Marvel exec Bill Jemas for the Ultimate Marvel project.

Throw in the fact that Joey the Q can pull Hollywood stars like Smith and Bob Gale ("Back to the Future") into comics, and there's no doubt he's the new go-to guy at the House of Ideas.

Which character will be Knighted next?

A certain emerald giant tears up the United States Army this fall in *Hulk Smash*, a two-issue mini-series by the *Hitman* team of Garth Ennis and John McCrea.

Event Comics character Painkiller Jane also gets Knighted this fall, when she teams up with Frank Castle in a *Punisher/Painkiller Jane* one-shot by Ennis and Joe Jusko. After that, look for a possible Ghost Rider project by *Hellblazer* scribe Brian Azzarello and *Creed* creator Trent Kaniuga.

And then there's the whole Grant Morrison thing…

Will we ever see Grant Morrison's much-talked about Fantastic Four series?

Yes–coming soon to a comic shop near you.

Grant Morrison (*JLA*, *Marvel Boy*) teams with longtime Knights artist Jae Lee (*Inhumans*, *Sentry*) early next year to give fans his take on the Fantastic Four.

KNIGHT AFTER KNIGHT Marvel Knights' team book *Marvel Knights* will soon be joined by Grant Morrison's Fantastic Four mini-series.

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

SARAH MICHELLE GELLAR ("BUFFY THE VAMPIRE SLAYER") ONCE SAID THAT AS A CHILD SHE FEARED SOMEONE WOULD KIDNAP HER FROM HER 12TH-FLOOR APARTMENT "USING SUCTION CUPS, LIKE SPIDER-MAN." GUESS SHE SHOULDN'T BE DATING FREDDIE PRINZE JR. THEN, WHO LOBBIED TO PLAY SPIDEY IN THE MOVIE.

The story, which Quesada describes as a "huge shoot-'em-up," will pit Marvel's First Family against a bigger-than-life threat.

It won't, however, pit Sue Richards against her brother Johnny in any under-the-sheets love battle. "It will *not* be dealing with incest, for those people who misread Grant's quotes," Quesada chuckles, making reference to some online comments in which Morrison seemed to suggest the FF's "family values" were somewhat skewed. "As much as I would love for it to, it has nothing to do with that."

Now that Marvel Boy's a certified hit, will Morrison follow it up with more?

You'd better believe it.

Morrison's dream is to treat *Marvel Boy* as a trilogy–three six-issue mini-series following the adventures of a cockroach-enhanced Kree teenager running loose through the Marvel Universe.

Morrison says he's already got some "great ideas" for the second series, which would include the return of his beloved Skrull Kill Krew, a ragtag bunch obsessed with ridding the globe of nasty alien Skrulls.

Any more Hollywood talent headed to the Knights?

Yep–Quesada's looking to get the shaft.

Umm..."Shaft" director John Singleton, that is, a comic fan from way back.

Singleton–who's said that he'd love to helm a Black Panther movie–could be the third Hollywood player to work for the Knights, following "Back to the Future" screenwriter Bob Gale (whose *DD* storyarc begins with issue #20) and, of course, Kevin Smith.

"It's really, really tough [to get Hollywood talent]," Quesada says. "You could talk to someone and they'd say, 'Yeah, I'd love to do it,' but then the time comes, and they're just not available."

Joe Quesada's dream Marvel Knights project would be...

To write and draw his own adventure starring the Man Without Fear.

Quesada, who's turned fans on to his writing with a hit run on Marvel's *Iron Man*, fantasizes about the possibility of closing out his association with *Daredevil* with a gig that would be all his own, start to finish.

"That would be a real dream project," the editor says. "If I'm ever going to stop working on Daredevil...it would either be a Kevin Smith story or the particular Daredevil story I have in mind." Mum's the word on what the writer/editor's dreaming up for our boy Matt Murdock.

How will Jeph Loeb and Tim Sale's *Daredevil: Yellow* story differ from all their other Year One-style stories?

Significantly.

For starters, it's an action/adventure story, rather than the murder mysteries the duo popularized in *Batman: The Long Halloween* and *Batman: Dark Victory*.

"It will be much more in the vein of *Superman: For All Seasons* because it will be a 'making of a hero' kind of story," writer Loeb reveals.

Yellow, which will focus on Daredevil's early days, will differ from previous Loeb/Sale collaborations in its inclusion of superpowered, heroic guest stars.

"There's a certain quartet that will have to be dropping by," Loeb hints.

Artist Sale will have plenty of control over the coloring of *Yellow*. Look for it to be much brighter than the Batman mini-series, which relied heavily on shadows. "He has his own particular vision of how he wants it to look," Quesada says.

Will we see another Paul Jenkins/Jae Lee project after *The Sentry*?

No...not for a while, at least.

Jenkins has his hands full these days with monthly gigs on *Sentry*, *Hulk*, *Peter Parker: Spider-Man* and *Witchblade*, and Lee will be hard at work on Grant Morrison's FF project, so it'll be at least a year before the dynamic duo could even think about hooking up again.

And while he's spoken to them about possible future projects, Quesada admits he's got no Jenkins-Lee pitches on his desk at present.

Will we ever see a Daredevil/Green Arrow crossover?

It's not that crazy an idea.

Writer Kevin Smith loves the two stealthy, creature-of-the-night types, and he's slated to relaunch Green Arrow for DC next year much as he did for DD in 1998, so a team-up–written by Smith, natch–makes perfect sense. Fanboy saliva would flow faster than Niagara Falls, but not Quesada's.

"I don't have the same love for Green Arrow that Kevin does, but I'd be happy to draw anything he writes," Quesada says. "If it comes down the road, I'd do it."

Marvel Knights' Mission Impossible: How would the Knights handle Howard the Duck?

Quesada laughingly admits he's given some thought to revamping Marvel's cigar-chomping fowl from an alternate earth, and suggests he'd hand the project over to *Madman* creator Mike Allred...or to the Hernandez Brothers of *Love and Rockets* fame.

"Let them go nuts with it," he says. "They'd probably do something very cool...very off-the-beaten-path. It'd be so very un-Marvel-like."

Marvel Knights SURVIVOR

Strand the stars of one of comics' hottest imprints–Punisher, Black Panther, Shang-Chi, Marvel Boy, Sentry and Black Widow–on a desert isle, "Survivor"-style, and who would come out on top?

WEEK 1: Using "mysterious Wakandan technology," the Black Panther builds a cellphone out of a coconut. Later revealed to be just a coconut.
First week casualty: Black Panther

WEEK 2: Standing accused of impersonating a Marvel Knight, Shang-Chi's pleas that he's *not* from DC's Legion of Super-Heroes falls on deaf ears.
Second week casualty: Shang-Chi

WEEK 3: Eating his body weight in beetle grubs and winning the immunity necklace, Marvel Boy boasts how he's now "un-voteoffable." Later shot in the face by the Punisher.
Third week casualty (literally): Marvel Boy

WEEK 4: Crotchety ol' timer the Sentry won't stop walking around naked and showing off his fishing pole. Also shot in the face by the Punisher.
Fourth week casualty: The Sentry

FINAL WEEK: The survivors voted off earlier now choose which of the two remaining Marvel Knights—Punisher or Black Widow—gets the boot. As the Punisher cleans his arsenal of guns and dangerously eyes the voters, only one choice stands clear: Kick the Punisher off. C'mon, everyone's seen enough James Bond and Austin Powers movies to know spies shag like minxes. Who wouldn't risk a 9mm to get on the Black Widow's good side?
Winner: Black Widow ■ **PAT McCALLUM**

Wanna download that exclusive opening by Joe Quesada? Surf over to ***wizard-world.com!***

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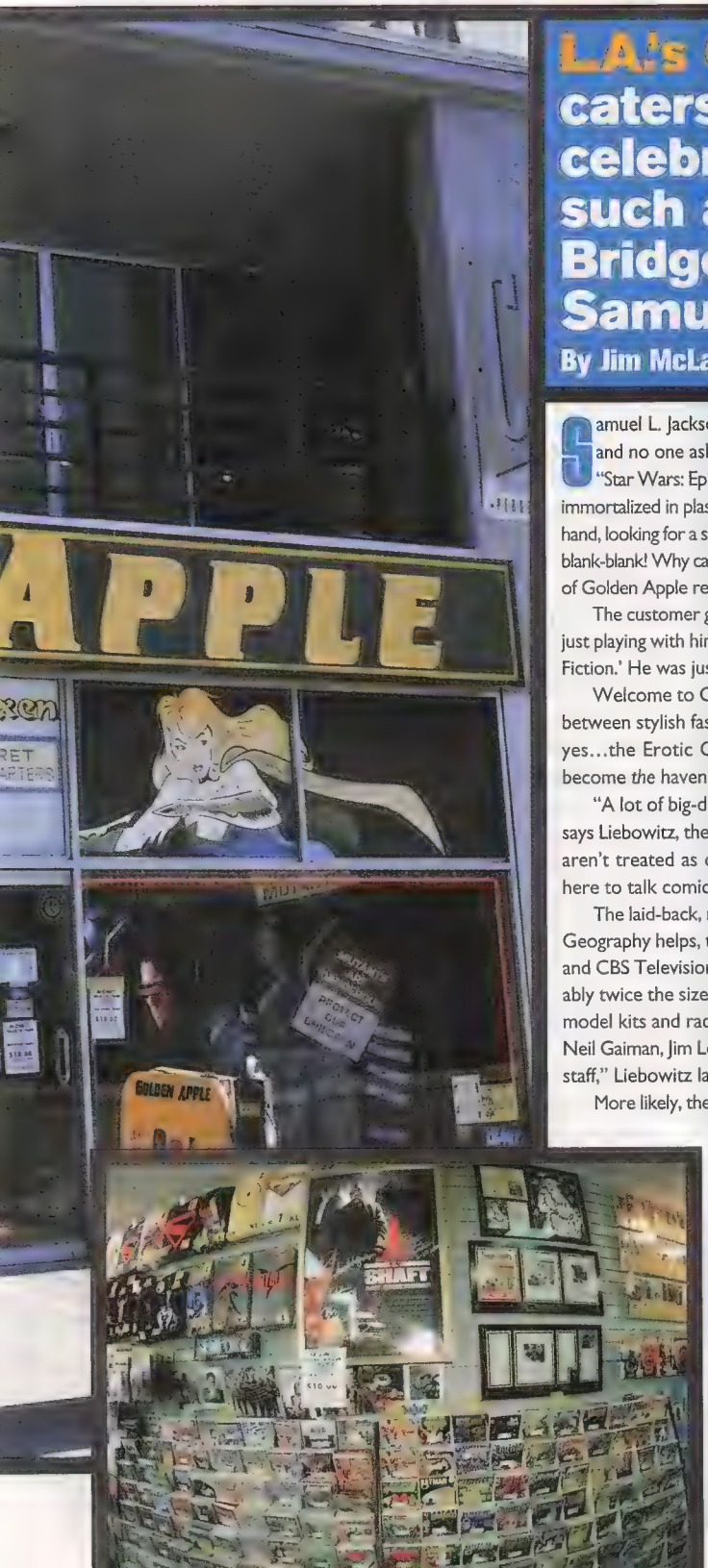

L.A.'s Golden Apple caters to A-list, celebrity comic fans such as Nicolas Cage, Bridget Fonda and Samuel L. Jackson

By Jim McLauchlin • Photos by Jilly Wendell

Samuel L. Jackson can buy all the copies of *Avengers* he wants at Golden Apple and no one asks him for an autograph. Well, someone did. Once. Just after the "Star Wars: Episode I—The Phantom Menace" action figures hit (and Jackson was immortalized in plastic as Jedi Mace Windu), a customer approached the actor, toy in hand, looking for a signature. "Sam glared at him and started yelling, 'You blankety-blank blank-blank! Why can't you leave me alone? I'm not here to sign your toy!'" Bill Liebowitz of Golden Apple recalls.

The customer got spooked, but Jackson returned his fear with a smile. "Sam was just playing with him," Liebowitz laughs. "It was a total play on his character in 'Pulp Fiction.' He was just kidding."

Welcome to Golden Apple on L.A.'s oh-so-trendy Melrose Avenue, wedged between stylish fashion boutiques, a million hipper-than-thou record stores, and yes…the Erotic Cakes bakery. In its 21 years in business, Golden Apple has become *the* haven for comic-craving celebs.

"A lot of big-deal guys shop here because we don't make a big deal out if it," says Liebowitz, the husky 6-foot-5 "President and Big Kahuna" of GA. "Celebrities aren't treated as celebrities. They talk work on the 'Today' show. They come here to talk comics."

The laid-back, no-pressure atmosphere is a big key to Golden Apple's success. Geography helps, too, with plush Hollywood hills homes just a couple miles away and CBS Television City right around the corner. Inside, the place is huge—probably twice the size of your average strip-mall comic shop. It overflows with toys, model kits and racks and racks of comics. Photos of past comic signing guests—Neil Gaiman, Jim Lee, Rob Liefeld—adorn the walls. "And we have the best-looking staff," Liebowitz laughs.

More likely, the trendiest. The GA staff looks so far ahead they make the trend—and everyone knows it. "Studio heads come in just to see what's new, what's hot, what the kids are into," Liebowitz says.

And marquee names want that knowledge, too. "Nicolas Cage is very open," according to Liebowitz. "We sit in the back room and talk about Superman and why he wanted to play the role."

Director John Singleton is a *huge* GA supporter. A "Shaft" movie poster autographed by the entire cast is a new and proud addition to Golden Apple's wall. "John would ask us about 'Shaft' casting," says Night Manager Albert Murcia. "He'd say, 'Everyone wants Will Smith. I like Sam Jackson. But do you think he's too old?' That's gratifying. He's not asking 'cause I'm some Hollywood expert. He's asking to get the fan opinion."

CHECK, PLEASE!

Hollywood stars—unlike us—have mad money. But ya never know—these Golden Apple customers might buy the same stuff you do. Right?

Bridget Fonda
("Single White Female")
"She's a *serious* reader," Liebowitz says. "She's interested in cutting-edge, literate projects—*Moonshadow*, Vertigo titles, and anything by Frank Miller."

Mark Hamill
("Star Wars")
"He collects Simpsons stuff almost fanatically," Liebowitz says. "And he's a well-known Golden Age collector."

Robin Williams
("Good Will Hunting")
Liebowitz says Williams "collects alternative press stuff—*Flaming Carrot*, *Jimbo* and a lot of self-produced ones. He also loves [French illustrator] Moebius."

Nicolas Cage
("Gone in 60 Seconds")
Cage loves Superman—"Books, toys, statues, he goes for it all. He also buys *Daredevil* and any Frank Miller stuff, plus Japanese toys," Liebowitz says.

Matt Groening
("The Simpsons")
"He's amazingly supportive of the undergrounds and alternates," Liebowitz says. "He'll buy one of each just to support them all."

John Singleton
("Boyz N The Hood," "Shaft")
Liebowitz says "He loves Spider-Man and the Black Panther. He's a straight mainstream Marvel guy."

Harlan Ellison
(Science-fiction author)
"You never know with Harlan!" Liebowitz laughs. "One day it's rare first-edition books and original art, the next little Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles toys."

Samuel L. Jackson
("Shaft")
Liebowitz says Jackson likes "the extreme comics, *Stray Bullets*, *Poison Elves* and *Brotherman*."

Seth Green
("Buffy the Vampire Slayer")
"It's my mission to buy the toy magazines, especially [Wizard's sister mag] TOYFIRE," Green says. "I guess this is kind of self-serving for you, huh? But I gotta see what cool new action figures came out." JM

ART ATTACK Guys like Frank Miller (can you spot his Dark Knight sketch?) and John Romita Jr. (Wolverine) and Sr. (Mary Jane Watson) have all contributed to giant sketch boards when they sign at the store.

GA grew into Fan Central through massive promotions. The store hosts an "event" per week, often bringing in 3,000 people for appearances by comic creators, *Playboy* Playmates and even rock stars.

"We had Ozzy Osbourne here once," Liebowitz remembers.

With 53 metric tons of cool stuff, anything-can-happen events (*Sandman* scribe Neil Gaiman showed up one day to work the cash register!) and the possibility of marriage, Golden Apple becomes a chummy place where the stars just like to hang out. Rockers Glenn Danzig and Rob Zombie are regulars. Horror author Clive Barker, who lives just around the corner, always swings by. Actress Bridget Fonda ("Single White Female") and actor Patton Oswalt ("King of Queens") get weekly Golden Apple fixes.

And it's not just the army of regulars you might spot when you swing by. One-time fly-bys are also frequent. "Judd Nelson came running in one Saturday screaming, 'I gotta get some *Steel* comics!' " Liebowitz recalled. "He was reading for the movie part and needed reference. Racquel Welch, back when she was looking to do 'Black Widow,' would come in for comics." And Axl Rose of Guns 'n' Roses purchased the *Vampirella* comic he modeled one of his tattoos after at Golden Apple.

Liebowitz counts himself tight with some regulars. "There are a few people I've had over for dinner in my years," he admits. And the perks can flow back to him…at least a little. "We get invited to movie premieres, but it's rare," Liebowitz says. "Not many guys will say to their publicist, 'Hey, you gotta invite my doctor, my hairdresser and oh, yeah—my comic store guy.'"

Just as well. Liebowitz prefers to hang at the store anyway. "One of my greatest joys is talking to people at the register. Not just because I'm taking their money, but because we can discuss things, fan to fan."

And Liebowitz doesn't care who's on the other side of the counter. "This is L.A. More specifically, this is Melrose! Hell, you see Denzel Washington when you go get coffee. There's always something hot going on. But no matter what," he says smiling, "I'm sitting here wearing shorts. It's *always* cool inside." W

Jim McLauchlin recommends you take a bite outta Golden Apple at 7711 Melrose Avenue in Hollywood. But if you see him there, remember—no autographs!

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

SOME CELEBRITIES DECLINED TO HAVE THEIR LIKENESSES ON THE COVER TO 1978'S *SUPERMAN VS. MUHAMMAD ALI*. NO PROBLEM. ARTIST NEAL ADAMS EITHER REDREW 'EM OR PLOPPED A MUSTACHE ON 'EM (LIKE JOHN WAYNE AND HENRY WINKLER)!

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MISSIO
IMPO

Illustration by Mark Bagley, Art Thibert, Richard and Tanya Horie

Marvel taps Brian Michael Bendis to make Spider-Man cool again as a part of its 'Ultimate' line—and find new fans in the process. Can it be done?

By Christopher Lawrence

Brian Michael Bendis has been called a lot of things in his lifetime—maverick comic talent, cutting-edge crime writer, Eisner Award winner—but he's never been called savior…until now.

Hand-picked by Marvel President of Publishing & New Media Bill Jemas to jolt Spider-Man back to life, Bendis charges forth with a bold new mission—find new comic fans.

Find 'em fast.

Pretty tall order, especially for a 30-year-old guy who's only recently stepped up to comics' major leagues, gaining fan buzz off his Image crime books *Torso* and *Powers*. But then again, breaking with convention is nothing new for Jemas, whose revolutionary idea to join comics and card collecting (Remember Marvel Masterpieces?) resurrected Fleer in the mid-'90s.

His newest pet project? The all-encompassing, universe-launching proposition called Ultimate Marvel.

The Ultimate plan—to update Marvel's cast of characters for a new generation—kicks off with a bang, relaunching two of the company's most iconic—and popular—titles under the dynamic direction of a fantastic foursome of hot creators. September's

Ultimate Spider-Man boasts the team of Bendis and veteran *Thunderbolts* penciler Mark Bagley, while December's *Ultimate X-Men* hooks white-hot *Authority* scribe Mark Millar up with fan-favorite *Uncanny X-Men* artist Adam Kubert.

Jemas, a former NBA marketing whiz, believes Marvel's newest line of titles will do more than reverse the trend of declining sales, bankruptcy filings and "one per year" presidents that's plagued the House of Ideas for practically a decade. He believes Ultimate can pull Marvel from the ashes. And he swears Bendis is the man to lead the charge.

"There's a lot of things riding on this," Bendis says. "The people who are in charge of this are the people running the company. If they didn't like it, you wouldn't even know it existed."

And existence is one of Ultimate Marvel's long-term goals. Jemas sees the Ultimate series running for—at the very least—the next 40 years of the company's existence.

Fans of Marvel's first 40 years of continuity need not worry, either. The folks at the House of Ideas promise Ultimate will leave the storylines of their already-existing titles untouched.

"This is acknowledging we have long-term fans," says Marvel Editor-In-Chief Bob Harras, "while at the same time trying to get new ones."

It's a grab for new readers that manifests itself in a subtle "tweaking" of the classic stories of the past. Bendis sums up Spidey's first appearance in 1962's *Amazing Fantasy* #15 in seven words: "A geek gets bit by a spider."

"Now take that and adapt it to today," he says. "It's like when they readapt Shakespeare into a new time frame. You pull the emotional essence out of it and tell a damn good story."

Bendis—and Marvel—will settle for no less.

SPINNING THE ULTIMATE WEB

"I don't want this to be a cheesy Elseworlds," Bendis says, comparing *Ultimate Spider-Man* to DC's line of "What if..." tales. "We've given it everything we have."

What he and artist Bagley have done is research. Lots and *lots* of research.

After all, *Ultimate Spidey* spotlights a 15-year-old hero, and both the writer and 43-year-old artist have at least a few years on young Peter Parker.

Bagley culls his inspiration for *Ultimate Spider-Man*'s juvenile characters from his home life. "You would not believe how covered my desk is in *Teen Beat*, *16*, *Spin*, everything like that," he says. "All that is my reference. I have daily pow-wows with my 16-year-old daughter so I can get the tone."

To get a feel for Peter's world, Bendis injects himself into the largest vein of teenage culture: the shopping mall. The writer hits popular teen hangouts around his hometown of Cleveland to get a handle on their behavior and dialogue patterns.

And despite all their efforts to make their characters hip, Bendis and Bagley's Peter Parker remains a geek. "He uses his powers to try to be the cool kid," Bendis says. "He's in his little high-school world, and he's not succeeding in it, so now he says, 'I'm going to succeed.'"

So, for a while, he wrestles with success. Or rather, *for* success.

"Peter becomes a professional wrestler," Harras offers. "In the original continuity he did the same thing, but in 2000, it's a much bigger deal."

Following his brief flirtation with fame, Peter discovers—the hard way—there's much more to life than being cool. The murder of his Uncle Ben teaches the young hero great power carries with it great responsibility.

"My job is to have Peter grow up before our eyes," Bendis offers. "He makes mistakes, he has growing pains, he doesn't always say or do the right thing."

Case in point: the same accident that gives Peter his powers also spawns two of his greatest villains—Dr. Octopus and the Green Goblin. "We want Spider-Man's origin to have created a chain of events so that Peter almost feels responsibility for them," Bendis says. "He feels his existence creates their existence, so he's obligated to finish this up right."

As Peter struggles to make things right, fans will be reintroduced to familiar friends like Mary Jane Watson and Gwen Stacy, familiar foes like Venom and the Kingpin, familiar fights like Peter versus the sensationalistic *Daily Bugle* publisher J. Jonah Jameson versus the Web-head, and a familiar freelance job with the *Bugle*—not as a photographer, but as an Internet tech-head.

"The book really is a valentine to Spider-Man, capturing what really made the book special," Bendis says. "It's a bunch of guys telling a good Spider-Man story.

"What else could you possibly want?"

Well...how about the X-Men?

X FACTOR

"Face it—*Ultimate X-Men* is the best gig in the business," hotshot writer Millar says of his new title. "The idea of being given a team-book which has been at No. 1 for two decades and being told to reinvent them on my own terms for the 21st century is a fan-

YOUNG TURKS The Ultimate X-Men—particularly Wolverine—will be much younger than their "classic" counterparts.

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

RAP SONGSTRESS MARY J. BLIGE HAS SIGNED A PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH STAN LEE MEDIA TO CREATE AND LAUNCH A "HIP-HOP SUPERHEROINE." THE FRANCHISE WILL LAUNCH THIS FALL WITH A SERIES OF ANIMATED WEBISODES VOICED BY BLIGE. STAN LEE DESCRIBES HER CHARACTER AS "A CROSS BETWEEN CLEOPATRA JONES AND BARBARELLA."

boy's wet dream."

Millar's Ultimate "dream" team of merry mutants consists of Cyclops, Jean Grey, Beast, Wolverine, Storm and...Mystique?

Yes, the X-Men's foe will join the team, Millar says, at least early on. "I think these are the best characters," he says. "But the line-up in issue one isn't necessarily going to be the same as the line-up at the end of the origin arc's conclusion. Some will live, some will die and others will swap sides...there are some genuine surprises in store."

Yet while the big elements (Xavier, Magneto, the X-Men versus the Brotherhood) remain somewhat true to regular continuity, Ultimate's X-team differs a lot more from its "classic" Marvel counterpart than *Ultimate Spidey* does.

Right off the bat, the heroes are a lot younger (especially in Wolverine's case), and they have a lot less backstory.

"My first six issues establishes the team, where they came from, how they were exploited and how they came to be under the wing of a very young Charles Xavier," Millar says.

The 30-year-old Xavier's one of President Clinton's most trusted advisors in the United States government. In an effort to diffuse the tension between humans and mutants (caused, in part, by Magneto and his mutant revolutionaries), Xavier convinces Clinton to establish an "X-Men" program to locate and embrace mutant teenagers, who'll be trained to work for the U.S. government.

"What we have here, at least in the opening issues, is five or six X-Men taking part in high-octane, anti-mutant operations under the command of Professor X," Millar reveals. "And under the watchful eye of his masters in the Pentagon."

Over time, the young heroes begin to question their loyalty to Professor X, to doubt the purpose of the military force for which they work.

"Should they serve American interests and big business by taking part in these highly paid covert operations at home and abroad," the writer asks, "or should, as some within the ranks have suggested, they side with Magneto and help pry power from the hands of the foolish mankind who are buggering up the Earth?"

Though fans won't find out the answers until December, Millar promises the wait'll be worth it.

"*Ultimate X-Men* is going to be very, very good," he says. "We're featuring the top characters, revamping your favorite book for the next 40 years and we've got Adam bloody Kubert.

"I want to break every record in the book with this project."

ULTIMATE ULTIMATUM

It's worked wonders for Star Trek. James Bond, too. So can the revamp approach create the same excitement for Marvel Comics?

Marvel's prez says yes.

"We'll give out millions [of promotional copies] to try to hook new readers," Bill Jemas reveals. "We'll consider ourselves failed in this if we do not bring in 100,000 new readers."

Bendis suggests Marvel's heroes deserve a bit of reinvention. "Think of it from a non-fanboy point of view. It's 40 years," he says. "Does NBC show programs on prime time that it made in the 1960s? No. There's a new audience. It's a different society. But it's still a good story.

"These are such good characters, they're worth everything we have." W

Wanna download that awesome opening art by Mark Bagley and Art Thibert? And also vote for your favorite version of Spider-Man? Head on over to wizardworld.com right now!

GOOD GIRL? Believe it or not, Mystique's a founding member of the Ultimate mutants, but writer Millar hints it might not be a long stint.

Ultimate Web Trip

Ultimate Spider-Man scribe Brian Michael Bendis put lots of new spins on the Web-head's supporting cast. Wanna see what he's got on tap? Read on, True Believer...

Character	Classic Continuity	Ultimate Spider-Man
AUNT MAY	A frail, aging widow whose hold on life is tenuous at best. She worries about her nephew Peter, who finds May his anchor throughout his life.	A feisty woman who can take care of herself, May isn't "on her 66th heart attack with her face caving in," Bendis says. She still worries about Peter, but in more modern ways (like logging onto the Internet to see if Peter's got Attention Deficit Disorder or something.)
UNCLE BEN	Ben Parker disappeared very early on in Spider-Man's universe with his death–an event which spurred Peter to assume the responsibilities of a superhero. It's easily the most significant event in the Web-head's history.	Uncle Ben plays a large role early on in the Ultimate story, which allows readers to understand why his death (yes, he dies in *Ultimate Spider-Man* #4–#5) has such tremendous impact. Bendis says when his wife–a Spider-rookie–heard Ben dies, "She was like, 'Oh no...poor Peter.'"
VENOM	One of Spider-Man's deadliest enemies, Venom's actually two entities–Eddie Brock and an alien symbiote–who feed off one another's mutual hatred for the wall-crawler. The symbiote once belonged to Peter, a trophy of sorts from a cataclysmic war on a far-off planet.	Bendis keeps the exact details under wraps, but promises Venom will have the "most boldly reinvented origin" of any Ultimate villain. "We're not dealing with any kind of cosmic nonsense," he says. "Peter's never going to leave New York, and all the villains will come out of that world."
J. J. JAMESON	The belligerent publisher of the *Daily Bugle*, JJJ has a major mad-on for Spider-Man and uses every resource at his disposal to attempt to convince the world the Web-head is nothing more than a masked menace.	JJJ will still make Peter's life miserable. "The *Bugle* will have sensational headlines on a daily basis," Bendis says. "Peter's like, 'Why is he always capping on Spider-Man?' and Jameson says, 'Because it sells papers.'" Peter, of course, takes the attacks personally, but Jonah simply sees it as business."
GREEN GOBLIN	Industrialist Norman Osborn drank a formula that gave him incredible strength, but drove him insane. After killing Spider-Man's college love Gwen Stacy, he was killed by his own glider. Recently resurrected, he actually bears a scar from his "death."	Osborn owns Osborn Industries, where Peter gets bitten by a certain arachnid. That mishap also creates the Green Goblin, on which artist Mark Bagley really cut loose. "It's Bagley's best drawing," Editor-in-Chief Bob Harras raves. "The best redesigned character I've ever seen." CL

GOING POSTAL

'Wizard' registers writer Anthony Pearce for the Joe Kubert School of Cartooning and Graphic Art Correspondence Course. Does he make the grade?

So I don't want to move to New Jersey. Sue me.

But that's where Joe Kubert's World of Cartooning has set up camp for the last 23 years, and, as an aspiring comic artist from Portland, Ore., I want to take their classes. Just when I'm thinkin' it's move it or lose it...Joe goes postal. No, he's not rampaging furiously across the campus spraying hot, semi-automatic death (that I know of). He's offering comic book art courses through the mail. You mean I can learn from Joe in the comfort of my crapper? Jinkies! Sign me up!

a BASIC TRAINING SPECIAL REPORT

Illustration by Andy Park, Jon Sibal, Richard and Tanya Horie

EASIER SAID THAN DONE

Week 1: I call the school. A cavalier male voice with a thick Jersey accent explains I need their brochure to choose my course. But, says I, I already know which course I want ("Penciling"). Regardless, he takes my information, assuring me I'll have the form in 4-6 weeks.

Week 9(!): There could be a new *Battle Chasers* issue out before I get this thing! I phone again, instantly yearning for my Jersey buddy who's seemingly been replaced by an overworked Denny's waitress. No, she cannot take phone orders. No, she cannot take a credit card number. No, they cannot fax. We are luckily separated by several time zones.

Week 14: The brochure arrives. Poised like the next-up outside the bathroom at a kegger, I jettison my order form into the mail and sit back for another long wait. Which turns out not to be.

Week 15: Wow, that was quick. Amazing how **$325** jumpstarts some people. I'm pretty sure at first sight that the box decorated in SCRUNCH! BAMF! and BAH-ROOM! is it. After peeking through all the goodies, I throw in the video. It's like watching the Olympics. Joe makes everything look so damn easy. Peeling back the spiral binding on the course book is like opening the book of Amen-Ra. Oh, the secrets that lie within. What do you ask of me, my liege?

Paul Schiraldi.

WHAT JOE ASKS...

LESSON #1: Character design; Western

What?? Western? What the hell do I know about westerns? I don't draw cowboys, I draw superheroes. Horses, hats, guns...ooh, this is gonna take research. Well, every comic artist has to do it, but it ain't gonna be fun. I dig through some old books, comics, magazines, anything I can find. "Waitasec," I say as a light bulb appears above my head, "y'know, Hollywood's already done all this homework." It's pause button time.

Reference material used:

Comics: *Lady Rawhide* (yum), *Lone Ranger, Kid Colt* (featuring Joe Kubert art) and *Two-Gun Kid*.

Movies: "Tombstone," "Silverado," "Maverick."

Misc.: Cigarette ads, etc. from various magazines.

As Joe suggests, I do multiple studies of each element before translating a final image to the assignment page. So I sketch and sketch and sketch. Gotta design a cowboy (yee-ha and all that), head and full body shots straight on and profile. Then there's three panels of story. A ghost town, a cowboy approaches and some peckerhead takes aim on him from the shadows. "Peckerhead"? Man, I'm watching too many westerns.

Week 16: I cast my first assignment off to be critiqued by comic art master Joe Kubert. The same Joe Kubert who, nearly 60 years ago, worked beside legendary *Spirit* creator Will Eisner at age 12! Joe Kubert, famous penciler of hundreds of DC horror, western and war comics. And of course, founder of the coolest comic art school ever. I'm more than a little nervous.

Can't work on the next assignment until the results come back from the last. Gotta wait for the feedback, learn it, know it, live it, make the next one better. So, I busy myself for three weeks, breaking down my sample pages for the upcoming comicon. Drawing, always drawing. Ticktock tick-tock tick-tock.

Week 18: It comes.

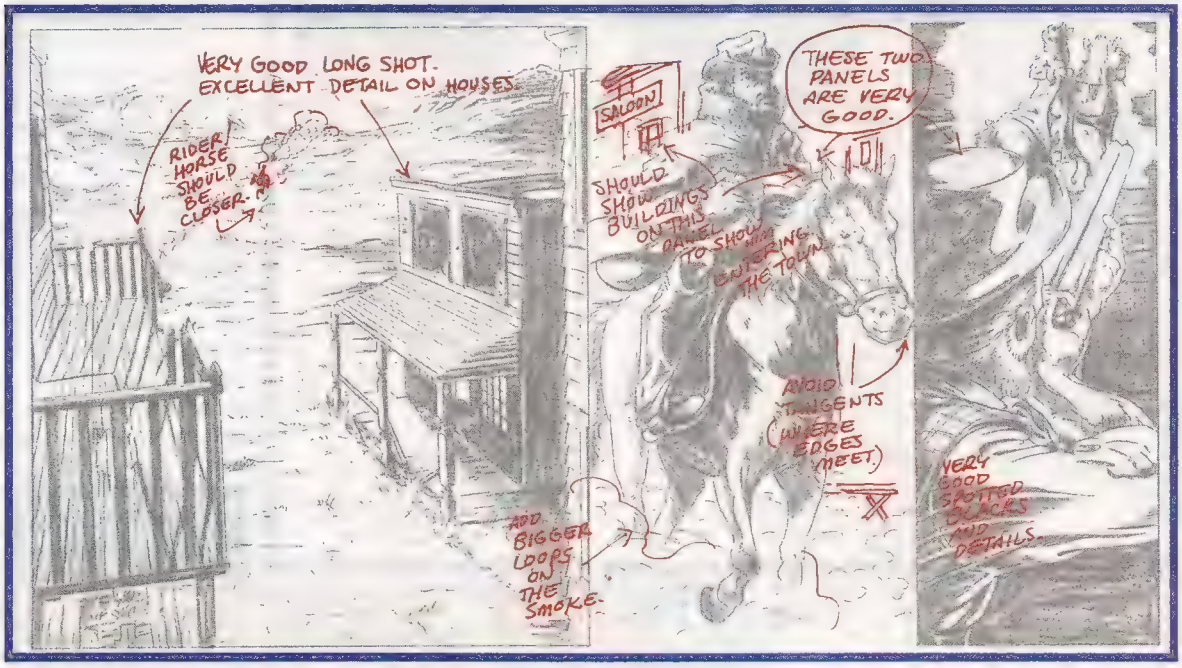
There's a transparent sheet taped over my assignment, covered in comments and sketches. "Excellent first lesson," it says. "You're doing very, very well! I can see that you enjoy drawing! Your storytelling is good but it needs a little work. Keep up the excellent work." That's cool. Pretty tame, though, and a little vague. How much did I pay for this? Before I answer, wait. There's more. On my character sketches he put "Excellent wrinkles and spotted blacks. Hand a little too small. Watch detail on ear...too far back. Watch detail on side view of eye. Hat sits lower on head." That's more like it. Stuff I can learn from. Alright, Joe, how're my panels?

Panel 1: *"Very good long shot. Excellent detail on houses. Rider should be closer."*

Panel 2: *"Make sure you 'connect' panels with proper background information. Should show buildings to show him entering the town. Bigger loops on the smoke. Avoid tangents where edges meet."*

Panel 3: *"Very good spotted blacks and details. These two panels [2 and 3] are very good."*

Overall a solid review, lots of info to work on for next time. Not just candy coated pats on the back but some honest, accurate input. Yipee-ki-yay mutha...well, you know the rest. Cook me up another plate o' beans, it's time to dive into...


VERY GOOD LONG SHOT. EXCELLENT DETAIL ON HOUSES.
RIDER HORSE SHOULD BE CLOSER.
SALOON
SHOULD SHOW BUILDINGS ON THIS PANEL TO SHOW HIM ENTERING THE TOWN
THESE TWO PANELS ARE VERY GOOD.
AVOID TANGENTS (WHERE EDGES MEET)
VERY GOOD SPOTTED BLACKS AND DETAILS.
ADD BIGGER LOOPS ON THE SMOKE.

LESSON #2: Shadow and Mood

It's all about using shadow to define form, instill emotion, compose a comic page, draw the readers eye where you want it to go.

The assignment's a cover design. A cavedude grasps at his cavebabe as she falls from their pterodactyl taxi. Dinosaurs?? I draw superheroes! Looks like it's back to researching reference.

Reference material used:

Comics: Despite the cast of the pic missing each other by 65 million years, it's standard comics fare, so I used *Conan, Ka-Zar, Uncanny X-Men* #114 and #115 (the Savage Land issues drawn by John Byrne) and several Atlas Comics barbarian titles that went extinct in the '70s.

Movies: "Jurassic Park: The Lost World," "Fire and Ice" by animation legend Ralph Bakshi and fantasy art legend Frank Frazetta.

Misc.: Coastline shot off the cover of a map book, photos of birds in flight and archaeopteryx fossils.

Joe Kubert has a rule about reference material. Never be a slave to it. Manipulate it to create what you envision. Now, I don't normally draw birds, let alone leathery hang gliders with teeth, so this is really a challenge. Keeping Joe's rule in mind, I have to create composites, and honestly…I'm having a blast. There're so many pterodactyl leftovers I populate my background with them.

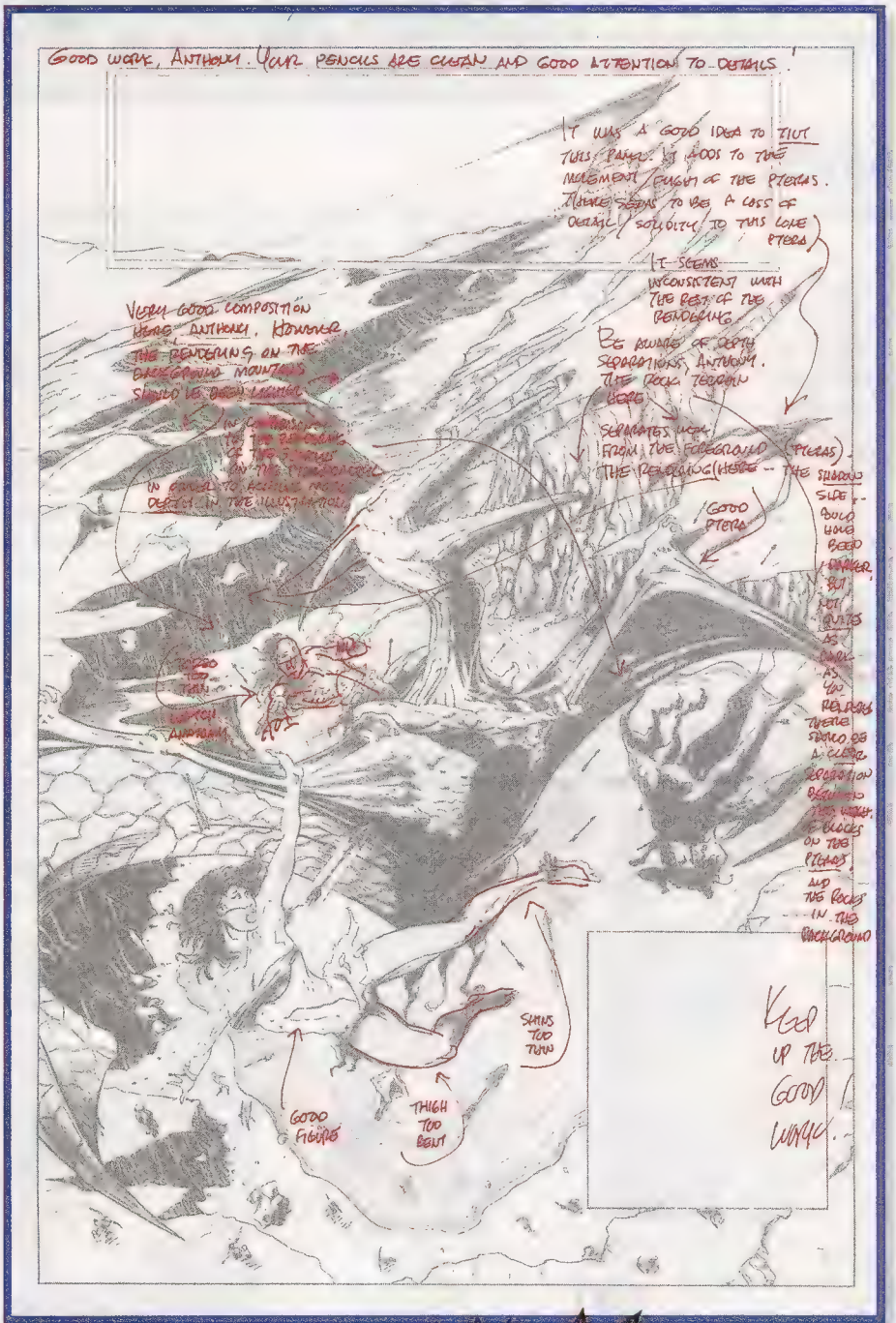
Oh yuck. Background. That means I gotta do a background. Okay, what are my options? I could cheat, aim my camera upward and fill the distance with random cloud formations. Nah. I could look up through the trees, maybe even frame my figures with the branches' silhouettes. Not bad, but it seems to lessen the illusion of how far my damsel in distress has to fall.

Looks like I'm gonna have to work at this. I use a coastline, reproduced at different scales and flipped over to create a valley receding in the distance and lay it into the page at a slant for that Hitchcock dutch angle thing. Wow, I never would have thought of all this before the course. Look ma, I'm learnin'!

Week 20: I'm grinnin' like a school girl (or was it *at* a school girl?) as I send this assignment off…

Week 22: …And even more so when it comes back. *"Good work, Anthony. Your pencils are clean and good attention to details. Watch anatomy. Torso too thin [on caveman]. Good figure [on cavewoman, but] thigh too bent and shins too thin. Good 'ptera.' [It] separates well from the foreground.*

"It was a good idea to tilt this panel. It adds to the movement/flight of the 'pteras.' Very good composition. However the rendering on the background mountains should've been lighter in comparison to the shadows on the pterodactyl in order to achieve more depth in the illustration." Very constructive stuff, but it illustrates a problem. As valid as Joe's pointers are, occasionally they're unclear. This critique has more comments about the background, but it's fuzzy what they refer to. So the problem is that I've only got my judgment to decide what he means. Can't call up Joe for clarification, just gotta move on to…


GOOD WORK, ANTHONY. YOUR PENCILS ARE CLEAN AND GOOD ATTENTION TO DETAILS.
IT WAS A GOOD IDEA TO TILT THIS PANEL. IT ADDS TO THE MOVEMENT/FLIGHT OF THE PTERAS.
VERY GOOD COMPOSITION HERE ANTHONY. HOWEVER THE RENDERING ON THE BACKGROUND MOUNTAINS SHOULD BE DONE LIGHTER
BE AWARE OF BODY SEGMENTATIONS, ANTHONY. THE ROCK TEXTURE USED
SEPARATES WELL FROM THE FOREGROUND (PTERAS)
GOOD PTERA
TORSO TOO THIN
WATCH ANATOMY
SHINS TOO THIN
GOOD FIGURE
THIGH TOO BENT
KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.

SAVAGE LAND Pearce says: "Dinosaurs?? I draw superheroes! That's why it's called homework, pal!

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WHEN YOU WANT A COMIC-BASED MOVIE SCRIPT IN HOLLYWOOD, TURN TO SCREENWRITER DAVID GOYER. GOYER HAS WRITTEN FILM SCRIPTS FOR "THE CROW: CITY OF ANGELS," "BLADE" AND THE LAME FOX TELEFILM, "NICK FURY: AGENT OF S.H.I.E.L.D." STARRING "BAYWATCH" STAR DAVID HASSELHOFF.

LESSON #3: Backgrounds and perspective

This lesson sets up the location of your shot, establishing the nature of the background and using accurate perspective. It describes laying out a grid to keep your figures in proper relation to one another and using contrast to establish a sense of depth.

The assignment is a split page. Down the left side's a jungle dude leaping through trees with a couple monkeys following him. Happens to me all the time. The right side's a superhero (finally!) climbing up the side of a building with a cityscape below.

Reference material used:

Comics: *Tarzan.* That's it. Nothin' but the best.

Movies: None really, my most important source was…

Misc.: *National Geographic.* There's no better source for trees, vines, or monkeys (and I don't mean spankin').

This lesson's really subtle. These are pretty large shots of two completely different environments, one very organic, the other very linear. I have to compose them separately before adding either to the finished assignment page. I'm learning that every panel is its own picture. Just because my hero looks cool in one panel doesn't make it okay to slouch on the next one. Everything has to work for that shot specifically. Varying camera angles just because I've heard I should is wrong if it doesn't work for that panel. I'm making the crucial distinction that each panel is a separate piece of art. Feeling deeper than Keanu right now. Whoa.

Week 24: I mail it off and rev up the sketch phase of my sample layout for the upcoming Comicon International in San Diego. Draw, draw, draw.

Week 26: Kubert's response comes back, but I still focus on my Comicon layout to have it ready in time. That's one of the beauties of this course. I'm not a slave to its schedule. Sure, I'll get right back on it when my layout's done, but it's great for busy people like me who work full time. The course is still there when I come back to it. Work full time, or go to school, it doesn't matter. You can squeeze this course in as your schedule allows. Anyway, Kubert's response is pretty straightforward. Good perspective and foreshortening, he likes my hero's cape, anatomy's a little lumpy in spots and over-rendering of backgrounds is flattening out my drawings. I'm as happy with what he didn't say as I am with what he did. I have a huge cityscape and there are no corrections on my perspective. That means I'm doing that right. It tells me I'm getting fabric, animals and plants down, too. Man, this reference stuff is really paying off! I'm feeling pretty cocky for…

Week 27: San Diego! Yeah, I know what you're thinkin', who cares, but this is important. I fly down for Comicon and get valuable critiques from comic pros.

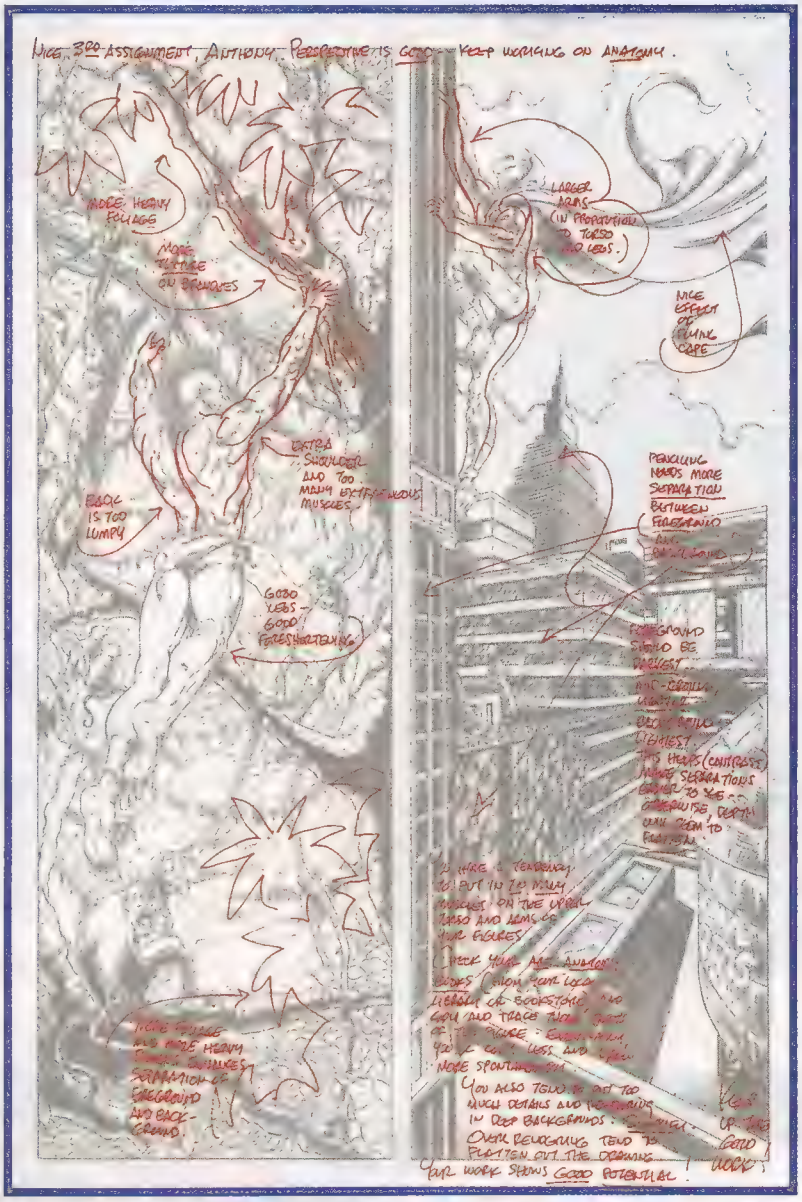
By the end of the con, I'm packed full of artistic input–not to mention Tanqueray and tonics–and a new appreciation for how truly big painter Joe Jusko is. I tell you because it illustrates another of Joe Kubert's lessons. Learn from as many sources as you can. Conventions are a phenomenal source of input from all sorts of pros–artists, writers, editors, spokesmodels (heh). I determine to pour it all into…

I DID IT ALL FOR THE GOODIES

The course comes with all the cool school supplies you need:

- Instructional video. The power to pause and rewind is crucial as Joe flies by a lot of info in 30 minutes. It's awesome to watch a penciling master at work. This video's a terrific learning tool. There just aren't enough girls in it.
- 11 x 17 course book including five six-page lessons and plenty of blank sheets for sketching
- Mechanical pencil w/ refills
- Magic rub eraser. Not quite as fun as it sounds, but mighty handy.
- Five sheets of tracing paper ('cuz your mother's a tracer!)
- Five sheets of bristol board, strictly for finished assignments
- T-square and triangle, to border your panels and pages
- Ames lettering guide for…well, nothing included in THIS course, but it's still cool to have
- Two pen holders w/ a variety of penpoints
- Black ink and white correction fluid. Oh, what, like you don't make mistakes?
- Two brushes to go with your two inks
- Pre-addressed manila envelope and backing board to safely mail your first assignment

Note: Each course has a different video and lesson book. Otherwise the kits stays pretty much the same from course to course. Luckily, since Joe's such a nice guy, after your first course all others are cheaper since you already have much of the equipment. ■ AP


NICE 3RD ASSIGNMENT, ANTHONY. PERSPECTIVE IS GOOD. KEEP WORKING ON ANATOMY.
MORE HEAVY FOLDAGE
MORE TEXTURE ON BRANCHES
LARGER ARMS (IN PROPORTION TO TORSO AND LEGS).
NICE EFFECT OF FLYING CAPE
EXTRA SHOULDER AND TOO MANY EXTRANEOUS MUSCLES.
BACK IS TOO LUMPY
GOOD LEGS - GOOD FORESHORTENING
PERCEIVE NEED MORE SEPARATION BETWEEN FOREGROUND AND BACKGROUND
FOREGROUND SHOULD BE DARKEST
TIGHTER!
THIS HELPS (CONTRAST) MORE SEPARATION BETWEEN FOREGROUND, DEPTH CAN COME TO FOREGROUND
YOU ALSO TEND TO PUT TOO MUCH DETAILS AND TEXTURE IN DEEP BACKGROUNDS.
OVER RENDERING TENDS TO FLATTEN OUT THE DRAWING.
YOUR WORK SHOWS GOOD POTENTIAL.
GOOD LUCK!

LESSON #4: Storytelling

Been waitin' for this one. Varying camera angles and panel shapes, pacing out a page, sample scripts, even a touch of inking.

The assignment's cool, too. An astronaut, threatened by a monster teleports to a new environment, but finds it's just as deadly.

Reference material used:

Comics: John Byrne's *Critical Error* one-shot, Brian Michael Bendis' *Jinx.*

Movies: None.

Misc.: A collection of planetscapes, the book covers of Edgar Rice Burroughs' *Barsoom.*

Wow, two detailed establishing shots crammed into one page with a whole lot of visual storytelling going on. I apply all the feedback from San Diego into this page and come out with the most kick-ass piece my portfolio's ever cradled. I think.

Week 32: Joe thinks so, too. *"Very good page, Anthony. Keep up the great work!!!*

Very nice establishing shot. Well-spotted blacks [throughout page]. Very good rendering. Great monster. Add a thicker halo effect on monster so that it separates more effectively from background. Simplify rock details around figure for clarity. Great expression [on terrified astronaut]. Good reflection of monster [in helmet]. Good close up of finger! Excellent background. Great detail. [On last frame] Great panel! Good composition! Well-spotted blacks! Good anatomy! Good poses! Very good expression! Good background!"

Overall, *"Anthony, you're doing really well. Your storytelling is clear and dynamic. You have a very good sense of spotting blacks. Your rendering and details are very good!!!"* Wow, Kubert went exclamation point happy with this. Think I'm gonna have to frame it.

I sit around moping for a day before starting the final lesson. I explain to my wife that as wonderful as that review is, there's almost no criticism to it, nothing to learn from. She leaves mumbling something about my never being satisfied and I resolve to skimp a little on the last assignment.

LET THAT BE A LESSON

Kubert plans to offer a total of 25 courses. For starters, there's:

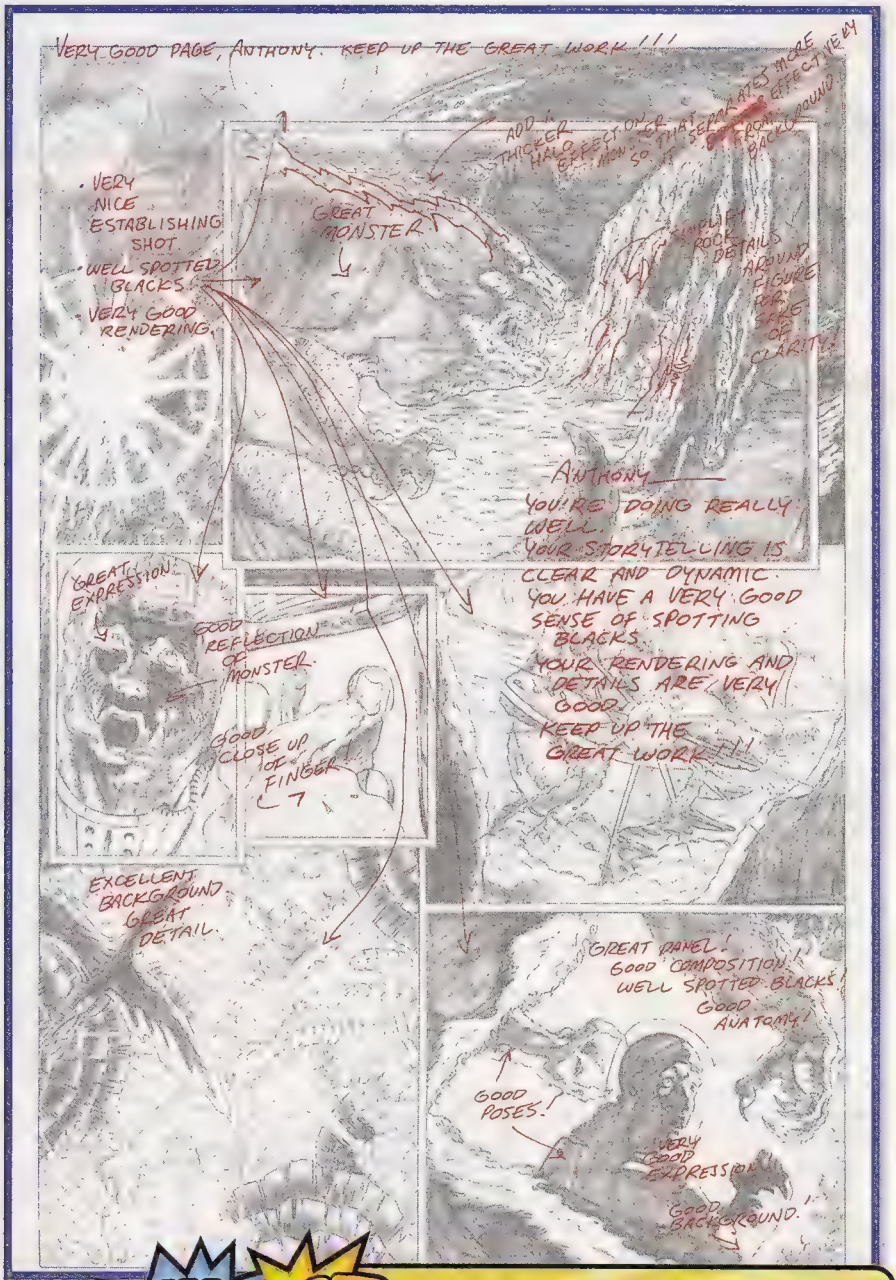
- Penciling
- Inking
- Horror
- Story Graphics
- Heroes and Superheroes

Next in line:

- Heads & hands
- Humor, Lettering & Sound Effects
- Covers & Splashes
- Blood & Guts (War & Battle)
- Animals - Dead or Alive (Dinosaurs, horses, apes, dogs, dragons etc.)

Coming Soon:

- Caricatures
- Semi-animated
- Painting
- Villains
- Write & Draw
- Science Fiction
- Westerns
- Guys and Girls
- Clothing, Drapery & Wrinkles
- Historical Subjects
- Genres (Western, crime, sci-fi, dinosaurs)
- Illustrate an 8-page Story
- Model & Action Figure Design
- Cavemen & Dinosaurs
- Cars, Gadgets & Things ■ AP


VERY GOOD PAGE, ANTHONY. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!!
ADD THICKER HALO EFFECT OVER HERE SO THAT IT SEPARATES MORE EFFECTIVELY FROM BACKGROUND
VERY NICE ESTABLISHING SHOT
WELL SPOTTED BLACKS
VERY GOOD RENDERING
GREAT MONSTER
SIMPLIFY ROCK DETAILS AROUND FIGURE FOR MORE CLARITY
ANTHONY— YOU'RE DOING REALLY WELL. YOUR STORYTELLING IS CLEAR AND DYNAMIC. YOU HAVE A VERY GOOD SENSE OF SPOTTING BLACKS. YOUR RENDERING AND DETAILS ARE VERY GOOD. KEEP UP THE GREAT WORK!!!
GREAT EXPRESSION
GOOD REFLECTION OF MONSTER
GOOD CLOSE UP OF FINGER
EXCELLENT BACKGROUND GREAT DETAIL
GREAT PANEL! GOOD COMPOSITION! WELL SPOTTED BLACKS! GOOD ANATOMY!
GOOD POSES!
VERY GOOD EXPRESSION!
GOOD BACKGROUND!

SCHOOL DAZE Who knew learning comics could be so tough?!?

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

DIRECTOR TIM BURTON NOT ONLY DIRECTED "BATMAN" AND "BATMAN RETURNS," HE ALSO SIGNED UP TO DIRECT "SUPERMAN LIVES," THE MUCH-AWAITED SEQUEL TO THE SUPERMAN MOVIES. BURTON PROVED HIS BUSINESS SAVVY BY MAKING A DEAL THAT GUARANTEED HIM $5 MILLION EVEN IF THE FILM WAS NEVER MADE.

LESSON #5: Storytelling step 2

The lesson for this one is composed of five single-page sequentials–teens at the movies, flying heroes and villains in the city, creepy alleys, mad scientists and sci-fi. I read through the scripts, breaking them down to sequential panels.

The assignment itself is only three panels, but a great exercise in scale, pacing and drama. A giant approaches a castle. The knight atop it bravely readies his sword.

Reference material used:

Comics: Medieval warfare and architecture, including gargoyles and castles.

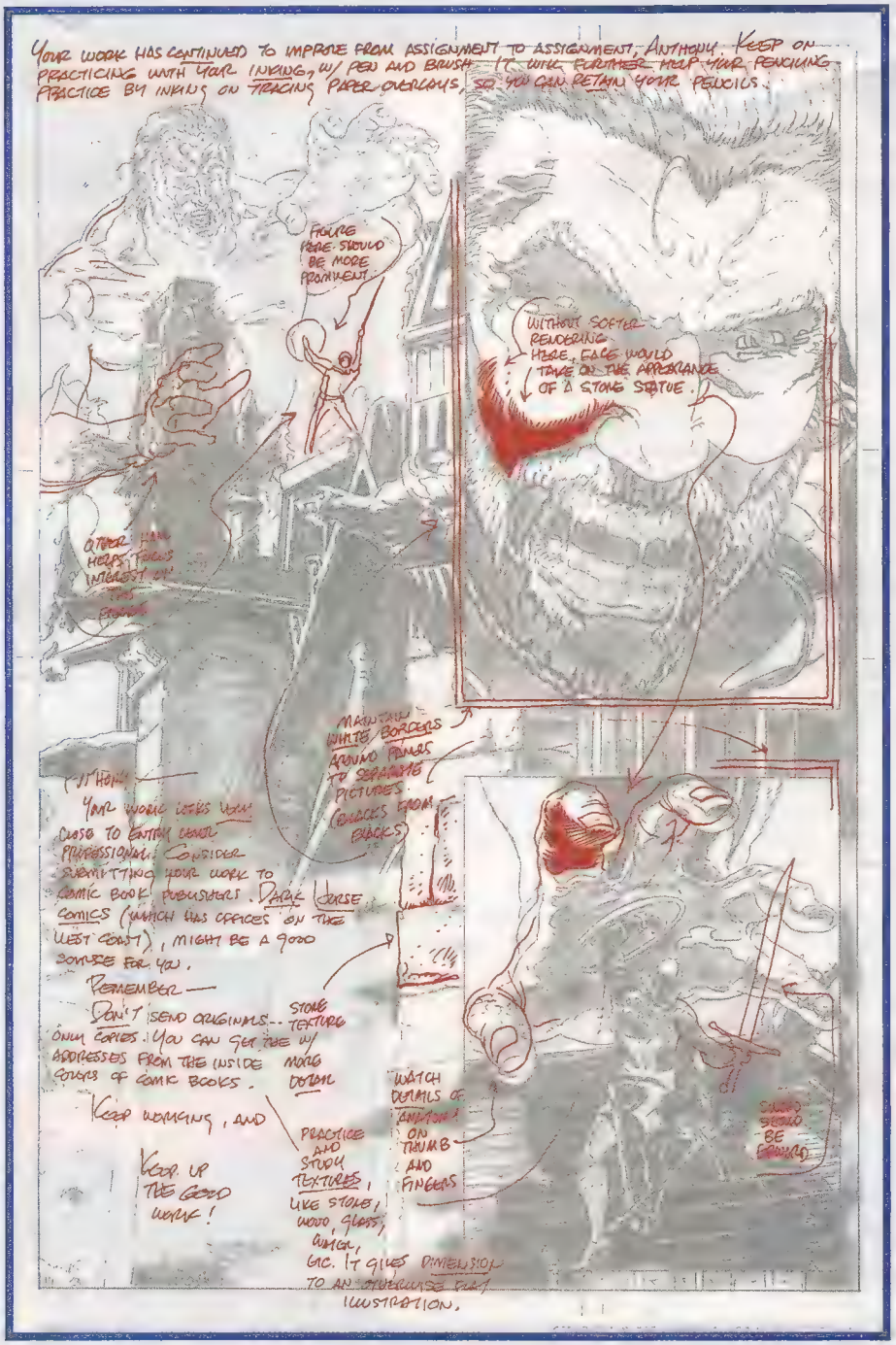
Perspective would be throwing me a bit, but I'm putting another of Joe's golden rules to work. In the video he advocates tracing as a learning tool and the kit includes tracing paper for that purpose. What he doesn't mention is that, in order to transfer my drawings to the final assignment page, I need to draw on a transparent surface with a lamp under it (it's what the art biz calls a makeshift "light table") or just tape my page to a window with a low-adhesive masking tape. (You don't want the tape to rip your art. Oh, and do this preferably during daylight, duh.)

Week 35: I wanted more feedback with this one, and Joe's giving it to me. In my establishing shot, the stone walls lack texture, my hero's not prominent enough and the giant's short a limb. His, uh, arm should be in the frame.

For the two inset panels he said, *"Without softer rendering here, [giant's] face would take on the appearance of a stone statue. Watch details of anatomy on thumb and fingers. Maintain white borders around panels to separate pictures (blacks from blacks). Sword should be forward."*

Then he hits me with a synopsis of how I've done throughout the course. *"Your work has continued to improve from assignment to assignment. Keep on practicing with your inking, w/pen and brush. It will further help your penciling. Practice by inking on tracing paper overlays so you can retain your pencils. Your work looks very close to entry level professional. Consider submitting your work to comic book publishers. Dark Horse Comics (which has offices on the West Coast) might be a good source for you. Remember, don't send originals–only copies. You can get the addresses from the inside covers of comic books. Practice and study textures, like stone, wood, glass, water, etc. It gives dimension to an otherwise flat illustration. Keep working and keep up the good work."*

Included with my final critique is my certificate of completion, signed and dated by Joe Kubert himself. I'm sure my wife will insist I frame and hang it.


YOUR WORK HAS CONTINUED TO IMPROVE FROM ASSIGNMENT TO ASSIGNMENT, ANTHONY. KEEP ON PRACTICING WITH YOUR INKING, W/ PEN AND BRUSH. IT WILL FURTHER HELP YOUR PENCILING. PRACTICE BY INKING ON TRACING PAPER OVERLAYS, SO YOU CAN RETAIN YOUR PENCILS.
FIGURE HERE SHOULD BE MORE PROMINENT
WITHOUT SOFTER RENDERING HERE, FACE WOULD TAKE ON THE APPEARANCE OF A STONE STATUE.
OTHER HAND HELPS FOCUS INTEREST ON THE FIGURE
MAINTAIN WHITE BORDERS AROUND PANELS TO SEPARATE PICTURES (BLACKS FROM BLACKS)
WATCH DETAILS OF ANATOMY ON THUMB AND FINGERS
SWORD SHOULD BE FORWARD
STONE TEXTURE NEEDS DETAIL
PRACTICE AND STUDY TEXTURES, LIKE STONE, WOOD, GLASS, WATER, ETC. IT GIVES DIMENSION TO AN OTHERWISE FLAT ILLUSTRATION.
KEEP WORKING, AND KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK!

AS THE SMOKE CLEARS

So, I haven't scaled Mt. Everest or found a cure for cancer, and sure this course is only equal to one class out of the dozens Joe's students on campus go through, but I learned a lot. My pages are more dynamic, my storytelling's stronger, my style's more defined. I ENJOY reference research! Hmm, feel my forehead. Do I have a fever?

With no teacher looking over my shoulder, self-discipline's all I have. I could've slacked off, done the bare minimum required of each assignment, but it would've wasted how killer this course can be. Because I challenged myself, Joe could critique me on a more professional level. He wasn't stuck rehashing basics, correcting mistakes I know better than to make. I gave my best and got back from this course exactly what I put into it. I'm one big step closer to being a pro. But now that I've gone postal myself there's just one problem.

Which course do I take next?

Wanna enroll? Go to www.kubertsworld.com *or call (877) JKWORLD to learn more about the Kubert Correspondence Course. Or you can call (973) 361-1327 to learn more about attending the school—in the fall of 2001, since all slots for the 2000-01 school year are already filled. And see all of Anthony Pearce's course work with Joe Kubert's commentary by going to* wizardworld.com!

totally tu

'Wizard' provides you with an early look at all your

THEORY OF 'EVOLUTION'

Marvel's mutants return to television in 'X-Men: Evolution' to battle their toughest adversary yet—high school

Want more X-Men?

If the "X-Men" movie left you salivating for more for Marvel's mutants, you need go no further than your television screen.

"X-Men: Evolution" debuts this fall on the Kids WB!, ending the X-Men's two-year absence from the television airwaves and returning them to the Saturday morning cartoon kingdom they once ruled.

"Evolution" knocks Marvel's mutant megastars down a peg—at least as far as their ages are concerned—throwing Cyclops, Nightcrawler, Jean Grey, Kitty Pryde, Rogue and a new X-Man named Spyke into the tumultuous, chaotic world of high school.

"We're kind of going for the 'Buffy the Vampire Slayer' audience," says story editor Greg Johnson. "We're creating a fine line between the dramatics of teen life when you're a mutant and the kick-butt action that the X-Men normally provide."

The series sets a new standard for the world's most popular superteam, and its creators have taken measures to distinguish it from the comics, the movie and its animated predecessors.

For starters, the X-Men live and train at the Xavier Institute, rather than the School for Gifted Youngsters, but they also attend Bayville High School, a regular educational facility full of "normal" students.

"That's part of Xavier's plan," says story editor Bob Forward. "He wants them [the X-Men] to learn to stay hidden, to control their powers in a normal environment."

As a result of that near-constant exposure to the so-called normal world, the majority of the young mutants differ (though not in terms of their powers) in comparison to their comic counterparts.

Forward offers X-Men team leader (and high school senior) Scott "Cyclops" Summers as an example. "Cyclops isn't quite the straight arrow he's always been portrayed to be," he says. "You can see that in him, but he's living in a cool institute, he's got a cool car.

"He's the big man on campus."

Kurt "Nightcrawler" Wagner, on the other hand, plays like the "blue man on campus," although he does his best to hide it. Kurt, the team's furry blue prankster, uses a holographic image inducer to assume a normal appearance while he's bouncing around Bayville's halls.

"He still feels fuzzy, though," Forward says of the sophomore student. "So he's got to try not to touch people."

The same goes for Rogue, who—true to her comic roots—still has to remain isolated, due to her uncontrollable ability to absorb someone's life energy with the even slightest touch.

"Rogue's kind of got a chip on her shoulder," Forward reveals. "She walks around in these Goth, punkish outfits."

Rogue's somewhat...er, roguish style comes into stark contrast with Kitty, a Bayville freshman

STAR POWER
TV'S COMIC STARS

MUTANT HIGH "X-Men: Evolution" will see the X-teens battle evil mutants, homework and acne.

bular

favorite upcoming Fall TV shows

Couch potatoes of the world—unite! The new TV season is upon us, and WIZARD gives you the low-down on all your favorite shows coming up this autumn as well as a look at some new shows you may not be familiar with. So, without missing a beat, throw your popcorn in the microwave, put some soda and ice and fluff your favorite pillow—it's time to do some serious boob tube watchin'!

whom Johnson considers the "sweetest character" in the series.

"Kitty's the most naive of the X-Men," he says.

She's also the one fans will know the most about, mainly since the cartoon's creators decided to show the manifestation of her mutant powers. One night, Kitty has a nightmare in which she dreams she can fly. That power conks out, however, and sends her plummeting from the sky. Kitty wakes up in a cold sweat—in her family's basement.

"Her parents think she's been sleepwalking," Forward says. "Until they notice her blanket is stuck halfway through the floor."

Apart from Kitty, who was similarly innocent in her earliest comic appearances, Jean Grey comes closest to maintaining her roots that were established in print, Forward says. "Jean is pretty much Jean...just a bit younger."

In comparison, the last of the X-Men in "Evolution"—Evan "Spyke" Daniels **(see sidebar)**—doesn't even have his own comic history. The newly-created hero owes his existence to a former four-color mutant, however—Marrow.

"Evan can send bone spikes out of his body," Johnson says. "He can shoot them off...and use them to protect himself."

As for how he becomes an X-Man, let's just say he's got connections. Spyke's aunt happens to be the team's resident weather goddess (and Xavier Institute staffer), Storm. And though he's not listed as a teacher, Wolverine joins Ororo as one of the adult X-Men at the school, serving as a mentor to the younger mutants.

"He lives in the institute and helps train the kids," Forward says. "But quite often, he's got his own agenda."

Yet while Storm and Logan are important characters in the series (Wolverine appears in every episode), don't expect to see storylines revolving around them.

"Wolverine's first confrontation with Sabretooth is in an episode, but that's not the entire plot of the story," Johnson says. "We're focusing on the kids, and our stories are generated through the school."

Which means there'll be plenty of action. After all, the X-Men won't be the only superpowered students at Bayville High. The school's roster also includes a brotherhood of baddies, such as Blob, Avalanche, Quicksilver and Toad. If that ain't enough, the school's actually run by that smarmy shapeshifter, Mystique.

"Xavier knows Mystique's in charge," Forward says. "But he wants the kids to learn to deal with authority figures, even if they may be problematic."

One thing that won't be popping up, though, is the classic "humans versus mutants" motif. In the world of "Evolution," mutantkind is still basically an unknown phenomenon, so the creators are focusing on what it would be like trying to keep mutant powers a secret in normal society. It's a goal that's sometimes difficult, given the adolescent nature of the show's stars.

"They're kids," Johnson says. "If Cyclops is having a hard time getting his Pepsi open, he might just zap it. "When no one's looking, of course." ■ CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE

the XAVIER FILES

NAME: Evan Daniels
CODENAME: Spyke
KNOWN RELATIVES: Ororo Munroe, aka Storm (aunt)
POWERS: Spyke's mutant abilities manifest in the form of bony protrusions that extend out of his body. They can be used both as a defensive mechanism and as an offensive weapon. Spyke begins his stay at the Xavier Institute (rather comically) not in control of his powers, but learns to use them as part of his institute training.

PERSONALITY: An urban street kid, Spyke's a bit of a daredevil. A skilled athlete, he's pretty good with both a basketball and a skateboard. While he's not a troublemaker, Spyke thinks he's got a better handle on things than he actually does. ■ CL

PAST TENSE FOR FUTURISTIC BATMAN

'Batman Beyond' beats down cancellation rumors and faces future JLA in third season

The future looks bright for the futuristic Batman.

Fans of the ultra-popular "Batman Beyond" were given a scare last year when rumors of cancellation began to surface. Well, don't believe everything you hear—after two high-octane seasons, the futuristic spinoff of the original "Batman Adventures" animated series returns to the Kids' WB! lineup this fall with 13 brand new episodes.

Basically, when production wrapped last season, the Internet mavens reported the show was getting canceled, when in reality, the Kids WB! ordered 13 more episodes. "That got so spun out of control!" exclaimed WB Animation spokesperson Sarah Carragher. "The network is 120% behind the show—they love it, it's incredibly successful, and we're fully anticipating coming back."

And coming back with a vengeance. Lots of cool surprises are in store for *Beyond* fans this fall (premiere date TBD), including a much-ballyhooed guest appearance by the Justice League. "It's like 'JLA Beyond'—a futuristic version of the JLA," revealed series producer Bruce Timm. "The only returning members from the current time period are Superman and Big Barda, but there'll be futuristic versions of Hawkman, Aquaman and Green Lantern. They're versions you've never seen before, so it'll be interesting."

As for the story itself? "I don't want to give too much of it away," said Timm, "but in a nutshell, there's an internal problem with the JLA, and Superman basically recruits Terry McGinnis to help them solve the problem. And it leads to a big adventure." Throw in the "Return of Joker" direct-to-video release that's scheduled to hit stores this October (**see sidebar**), and it looks to be a big season for the next generation's Dark Knight.

For a show that was born under the critical eyes of skeptics and traditionalists, "Batman Beyond" has been a surprising hit. Just more proof that change isn't always a bad thing—and believe us, the show's got changes a'plenty. A cranky, over-the-hill Bruce Wayne hobbling around on a cane? Batman himself—a smart-ass kid? The Caped Crusader...without a cape? It's enough to make any old-school Bat-fan cringe. "We kind of knew it was going to be a calculated risk, doing something that's radically different from the old Batman," said

FUTURE SHOCK Batman Beyond will run into plenty of surprises this fall, including the JLA!

STARBURST *Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain*

LAURENCE FISHBURNE DISPLAYED HIS AFFINITY FOR COMICS WHEN, IN AN INTERVIEW TO PROMOTE HIS FILM, "EVENT HORIZON," HE STATED THAT HE LIKENED A SCENE WHERE CO-STAR SAM NEIL GOES UP IN FLAMES TO JOHNNY STORM, THE FIERY YOUNG MEMBER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR.

Timm. "But the show was going to happen whether [creators] Paul [Dini], Alan [Burnett], Glen [Murakami] and I were going to do it or not, so we decided, 'Well, if somebody's going to do it, we'd better do it.' " Good thing, too—the combined experience of the veteran Bat-producers has kept the show from straying away from the essence of the original, no matter how unfamiliar the setting or the characters may look (a look that many fans have embraced, from the sleek new Bat-suit to the futuristic Gotham cityscape).

As always, strong characters make a show tick, and "Batman Beyond" features the best one-two duo since—well, Batman and Robin. The older, retired Bruce Wayne complements young Terry McGinnis, the upstart high school-student-by-day who dons the pointy ears by night. According to Timm, the mentor/pupil relationship between the older Batman and his youthful successor is the heart of the show. "As much as I love the classic Batman, I love the cranky old man Bruce Wayne—I think he's just a terrific character," said Timm. "As for Terry, he's definitely cut from the classic Robin mold—the typical wisecracking junior member of the team. But he's definitely not a pampy little kid—he's a spitfire, and he gives as good as he gets from Bruce Wayne." ■ RICHARD HO

JOKER PLAYS his TRUMP

Fighting crime in the future is no laughing affair...until now.

Following in the footsteps of the original "Batman Adventures," "Batman Beyond" jumps into the feature-length market with a direct-to-video movie release on October 24. The story, called "The Return of Joker," marks—surprise!—the return of everyone's favorite cackling psychopath, voiced by none other than Mark Hamill ("Star Wars"), who lent his vocals to the murderous clown in the first animated Batman series.

We asked "Batman Beyond" producer Bruce Timm what he could reveal about the movie's storyline. "Not very much!" said Timm. "The common knowledge is that the Joker's back, and there's some mystery surrounding that which I'm not going to blow." One thing we *do* know? One of the show's long-standing unresolved issues will finally be addressed—the curious absence of Robin during the first two seasons. "We finally explain what happened to young Tim Drake. It's one of those pressing questions that we've been asked ever since we debuted with 'Batman Beyond,' so we're finally going to solve that mystery." Beyond that, we'll just have to wait and see.

But don't worry—if what we hear from Timm is true, it'll be worth the wait. "We've gotten most of the footage back at this point, and it's spectacular. It's gonna be a knock-your-socks-off, razzle-dazzle adventure—and as far as a real solid emotional story, I think it's really going to please Batman fans worldwide." ■ RH

2000 fall tv preview

BUFFY the VAMPIRE SLAYER

MAJOR PLAYERS: Sarah Michelle Gellar (Buffy), Nicholas Brendon (Xander), Michelle Trachtenberg (Dawn), Alyson Hannigan (Willow), Marc Blucas (Riley), Joss Whedon (Creator).

TIME SLOT: Tuesdays, 8 p.m., WB!

PREMISE: Oh-so-cute Buffy and the gang are back for their fifth season, and they're ready to kick some more demons around. This season promises new characters and a slew of new villains, with less of Angel now that he's got his own show. Last season an emphasis was placed on the group handling college life and being on their own, but this season the show will focus more on the group as a family (kinda like the Scooby Doo gang).

THE SCOOP: While the fourth season was described by creator Joss Whedon as being about freedom, co-executive producer Marti Noxon says the fifth season is about self-discovery. "The characters find out new things about themselves, in some cases, pretty drastic things. They have to change by necessity," Noxon says. One lifestyle change for Buffy will be the introduction of Dawn, a younger foil to Buffy, played by Michelle Trachtenberg. The 14-year-old Trachtenberg, who played Penny in "Inspector Gadget," is actually a good friend of Gellar's, and was personally selected by her for the role. "It'll be nice to have a slightly younger perspective in Sunnydale," Noxon says. "Her role will surprise people, she's not just going to be the new kid on the block." Buffy fans should expect plenty of fireworks this season. The season finale will be episode 100, and Noxon says they're driving towards a big climax for the anniversary episode.

DIDJA KNOW?: Be on the lookout in the season premier for the interaction between Buffy and Dracula. The actor who portrays Dracula is the same actor who played the role of Gellar's boyfriend back when she was on "All My Children." ■ SETH JONES

BEAST WARS

BEAST MACHINES

Major Players: Gary Chalk (Optimus Primal), David Kaye (Megatron)

Time Slot: TBA on Fox Kids; premiere TBD

Premise: The Beast Wars are over. The victorious Maximals return to Cybertron only to find that Megatron has taken over.

The Scoop: At the end of season one, Optimus Prime found and triggered a Doomsday weapon capable of wiping out all organic life, including the Maximals.

Didja Know?: In the first episode of season two, look for Optimus' journey through the Matrix. The faces that flash before him are new characters that will appear later in the series.

BLUE SUBMARINE NO. 6

Major Players: Tetsu Hayami, Mayumi Kino

Time Slot: Monday-Thursday, Oct. 16-19, 6-7 p.m. on Cartoon Network

Premise: In the not too distant future, global warming has caused the oceans to flood most of the world's land masses. (Oh no, Kevin Costner was right!) As if that wasn't enough, strange undersea creatures are attacking humanity. Is this natural or is someone behind it? Earth's last hope is Blue Submarine No.6, a state of the art marine vessel.

The Scoop: Forget "The Thorn Birds" and "Shogun." This is what we call a miniseries! Since a lot of anime is presented in this format, expect a lot more of "Blue Sub" if this is successful.

Didja Know?: If you like computer generated images in your cartoons ("Titan A.E."), be sure to check this out. This is one of Nippon's first experiments combining CGI and pen-and-ink anime.

DIGIMON

Major Players: Joshua Seth (Tai), Philece Sampler (Mimi), Mona Marshall (Izzy)

Time Slot: TBA on Fox Kids; premiere TBD

Premise: Seven kids are transported into the Digiworld and paired with Digimon who defend them. The DigiDesitined, as the kids are called, have been predicted to rid the world of evil Digimon.

The Scoop: After the kids return to Earth, they found their eighth member, Tai's sister! When they return to the DigiWorld this season, they find that time passes more quickly there, so that their previous visit's considered legend.

Didja Know?: Gatoman was originally given a male voice. Then producers realized that Gatoman's digivolved form was Angewomon! A female voice was quickly substituted.

ESCAFLOWNE

Major Players: Hitomi Kanzaki (Prince Van Fanel) Allen Schezar (Millerna Aston, Merle, Folken Fanel) Dilandau Albatou (Dornkirk)

Time Slot: TBA on Fox Kids; premiere TBD

Premise: A high school student is brought to the mys-

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

LATE-NIGHT TALK SHOW HOST AND FORMER "SIMPSONS" SCRIBE CONAN O'BRIEN ONCE COMMISSIONED MATTEL TO CUSTOMIZE AN ACTION FIGURE OF HIMSELF. IN ADDITION, HE AND HIS FORMER SIDEKICK, ANDY RICHTER, MADE CAMEO APPEARANCES IN ISSUE 13 OF THE COMIC BOOK *MADMAN*. BOTH MEET PREMATURE ENDS.

tical world of Gaea by swordsman known as Prince Van. The unlikely duo have to work together to master a armored battle suit that's the world's last hope against the nefarious Zaibach Empire.

The Scoop: The ever popular cat-people of the anime genre are very present in this cartoon. Expect Merle to become a fan favorite, as well a Nari and Eriya, who are cheetah-women. Lion-O from the "Thundercats" would've gone nuts for them.

Didja Know?: Series creator Shouji Kawamori is also the man responsible for American anime favorites "Macross" and "Macross Plus" (aka "Robotech"). If you have fond memories of those shows, definitely check out "Escaflowne."

FAMILY GUY

Major Players: Seth MacFarlane (Peter/Brian/Stewie), Alex Borstein (Lois), Seth Green (Chris), Mila Kunis (Meg)

Time Slot: TBA on Fox; premiere TBD

Premise: The Griffins are not the average Rhode Island family. The dog talks, the baby is out to conquer the world, and the father makes Homer Simpson look like a genius.

The Scoop: Once taken off the air by Fox, this series has been saved by strong fan and industry support. Expect a flood of celebrity voices on the show this season: Luke Perry, Adam West, Lee Majors, Robin Leach, and comic book rock stars KISS. Also look for the entire cast of "Murphy Brown" to be reunited to replay their TV roles.

Didja Know?: This year, "Family Guy" will try experimenting with some live action sequences! They're being mum on what they are exactly, but have said that one is a recreation of one of television's most memorable moments. We're hoping it's "Who Wants to Marry a Millionaire?".

GUNDAM WING

Major Players: Scott McNeil (Duo Maxwell), Ward Perry (Duo Maxwell), Mark Hildreth (Heero Yuy), Saffron Henderson (Lucrezia Noin), Ted Cole (Wufei Chang), Brian Drummond (Zechs)

Time Slot: TBA on Cartoon Network; premiere TBD

Premise: In the year 195 AC, Earth has several different space colonies ruled by a tyrannical government. Five pilots of giant mobile suits, Gundams, hope to bring peace to the solar system.

The Scoop: Thanks to the recent breakout popularity of anime, one of Japan's best loved series has hit it big on Cartoon Network. This series is as popular as "Star Wars" is over here! Expect a huge merchandising push this Christmas season. In fact, it's already begun: Witness the recent release of the *Gundam Side Story 0079* video game. It kicks butt!

Didja Know?: Cartoon Network's action-adventure programming block launches its own movie franchise, Toonami Movies. Starting in October, Fridays from 5-7 p.m. will showcase the feature length movies of popular shows "Sailor Moon," "Dragonball Z," "ReBoot," and "Gundam Wing!"

DRAGON BALL Z

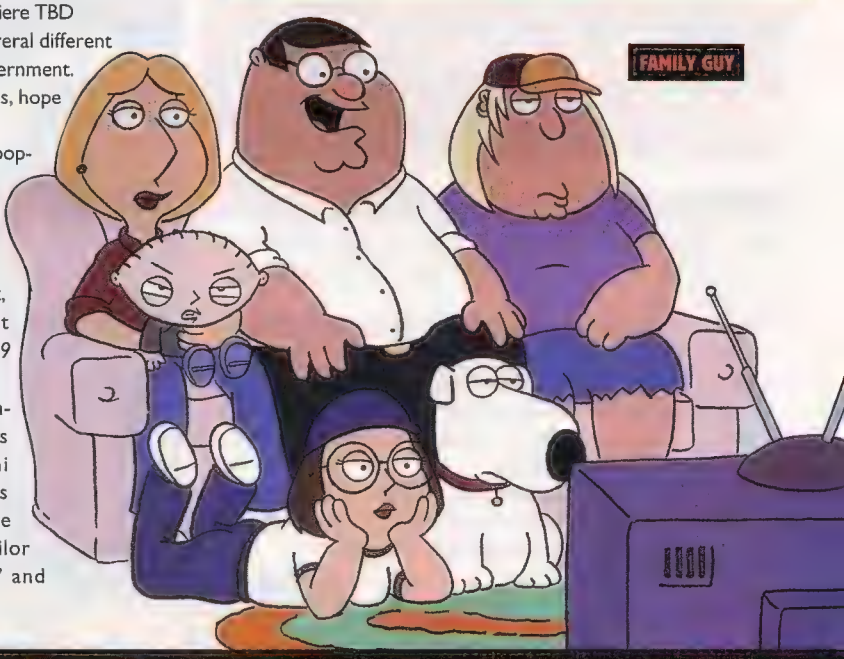
MAJOR PLAYERS: Sean Schemmel (Goku), Stephanie Nadolny (Gohan), Christopher Sabbat (Piccolo/Vegeta/Yamcha), Sonny Strait (Krillan), Tiffany Vollmer (Bulma)

TIME SLOT: TBA on Cartoon Network (Check out **dragonballz.com** for the official air times anywhere in the world)

PREMISE: Goku, born of the alien Saiyan race, was sent to Earth to conquer it. Accidentally losing his memory as a kid, Goku grew up to become Earth's defender. Now he and his allies fight to keep the legendary Dragonballs, a source of great power, from falling into evil hands. The most popular aspect of this show are the massive fights. These bouts take place on a apocalyptic scale with whole mountains and planets being laid to waste!

THE SCOOP: This show has become a runaway hit for Cartoon Network's "Toonami" programming block, so expect them to heavily push the upcoming "Android" and "Cell" sagas. These are 77 brand-new episodes that are coming in September. All the major characters are predicted to die, but someone's son comes from the future to warn them about their impending doom.

DIDJA KNOW?: Cartoon Network heavily edits the show from its Japanese version. Blood, swearing, and extreme violence are no-no's on the kid friendly network. But if your looking for an animated version of Fight Club, never fear. FUNmation sells both the uncut and edited versions on video. This past summer they also released their first uncut DVD with the original Japanese score and extremely accurate subtitles. ■ KARL CRAMER



2000 fall tv preview

STATIC SHOCK!

MAJOR PLAYERS: Phil LaMarr (Static), Jason Marsden (Richie Foley), Danica McKellar (Freida Goren).

TIME SLOT: Saturday at 10:30 a.m. on the Kids' WB!

PREMISE: Based on the comic book series from Milestone Media, Static is about a teenage African American named Virgil Hawkins who finds himself imbued with electromagnetic superpowers after being exposed to a mutanic gas. The cartoon will confront real life problems and issues faced by today's kids, including peer pressure, gangs and growing up in an ethnically diverse neighborhood. Static must learn how to patrol the skies at night and still be home in time to study for his chemistry test.

THE SCOOP: According to Dwayne McDuffie, co-creator of *Static* and a writer for the cartoon series, Static's translation to animation has remained very true to the comic. The costume has changed a little and the show is aimed at a younger audience then the comic book was, but the main points of the comic remain. Plus, some of the characters from Milestone might just be dropping by to lend Static a hand when he finds himself out of his league. McDuffie wouldn't drop names, but he did offer us this: "The main villain in the cartoon is Edwin Alva, and the people who know who Alva is probably have a good idea on who the first guest star will be." Can you say Hardware? Coinciding with the cartoon, McDuffie will be bringing Static back to the comics shops. A trade paperback containing issues 1-4 of the original *Static* series hits shops in early October, and then a new series, *Static Shock!*, starts in November. The continuity of *Static Shock!* the comic book will start where the last issue of the original series left off.

DIDJA KNOW?: Static isn't the first Milestone property to be considered for use in another medium. In fact, most of the crew at Warner Bros. Animation really have an eye on Blood Syndicate. But whether those characters make a guest appearance in "Static Shock!" or if they'll try something else with them is still undetermined. ■ SJ

POKÉMON GS

Major Players: Veronica Taylor (Ash), Rachel Lillis (Misty/Jesse), Ikue Ohtani (Pikachu), Eric Stuart (James), Adam Blaustein (Meowth).

Time Slot: Fridays, 4 p.m. & Saturdays, 10 a.m. on Kids' WB!; premiere TBD

Premise: With the release of the "Pokémon Gold & Silver" Game Boy sequels, the show has added the "GS" to signify the addition of 100 new Pokémon! Other than that, it's Ash and pals chasing down the little pocket monsters.

The Scoop: The show ill be out hot on the heels of this summer's "Pokemon The Movie 2000." It's considered a launching point for the new series. Besides, you get another batch of free cards!

Didja Know?: Coming up for the Christmas season will be a Nintendo 64 game called "Hey You, Pikachu!" that comes with a microphone so that you can actually talk to the little, yellow guy.

POWERPUFF GIRLS

Major Players: Cathy Cavadini (Blossom), Tara Charendoff (Bubbles), Elizabeth Daily (Buttercup), Tom Kane (Professor Utonium), Roger Jackson (Mojo Jojo)

Time Slot: TBA, Cartoon Network; premiere TBD

Premise: Professor Utonium's experiments with Chemical X result in a trio of superpowered little girls that are as cute as buttons: Blossom the leader, sweet Bubbles, and volatile Buttercup.

The Scoop: The Powerpuff Girls always swoop in to save the world (which usually consists of the city of Townsville) from an assortment of cute bad guys like Mojo Jojo and Fuzzy Lumpkins. Look for longer show-length episodes this season, too.

Didja Know?: The show is based on an original animated short called "The Whoop-Ass Girls." The name was changed when it was picked up by the Cartoon Network.

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

"SPIDER-MAN" FILM DIRECTOR SAM RAIMI STARTED OUT AS A DIE-HARD DC COMICS FAN, HAVING READ ALL THE SUPERMAN AND BATMAN COMICS HE COULD GET HIS HANDS ON. BUT THANKS TO HIS BROTHER, SANDER, HE GAVE SPIDER-MAN A TRY AND BECAME HOOKED ON STAN LEE'S ENGAGING WRITING.

SAILOR MOON

Major Players: Terri Hawkes (Serena/Sailor Moon), Karen Bernstein (Amy/Sailor Mercury), Emilie Barlow (Raye/Sailor Mars), Susan Roman (Lita/Sailor Jupiter), Stephanie Morganstern (Mina/Sailor Venus)

Time Slot: TBA on Cartoon Network; premiere TBD

Premise: Serena and he friends aren't ordinary teenagers. They can transform into the Sailor Scouts to defend the Earth from Queen Beryl and the Negaverse.

The Scoop: Look for 39 new episodes on the Cartoon Network comprising the "Sailor Moon Super" storyline.

Didja Know?: It's not a surprise to the legions and legions of Sailor Moon fans, but the American version is heavily edited from its more risqué original version which includes sex, homosexuality, and strong language. And they seemed like such nice girls.

THE SIMPSONS

Major Players: Dan Castellaneta (Homer), Julie Kavner (Marge), Nancy Cartwright (Bart), Yeardly Smith (Lisa)

Time Slot: Sundays 8 p.m. on Fox; premieres November 5

Premise: If you have no idea what this show is about, then get your head out of the ground. A satirical series about a working class family in the town of Springfield. It's also the longest running prime-time cartoon ever!

The Scoop: Who are the guest stars this season of The Simpsons? Yes. (End of Abbot & Costello bit.) The legendary rock band The Who appear in the season premiere episode. Another show, "Insane Clown Poppy," has Drew Barrymore as Krusty's illegitimate daughter. Also look for appearances by Steven King, Michael Keaton, Edward Norton, Joshua Jackson and the return of Kelsey Grammar as Sideshow Bob!

Didja Know?: Many of the characters are named after streets in Portland, Oregon where creator Matt Groening grew up, like Flanders, Lovejoy, and Terwilliger.

TENCHI MUYO

Major Players: Matt Miller (Tenchi)

Time Slot: TBA on Cartoon Network; premiere TBD

Premise: Tenchi's a normal Japanese high school student who practices martial arts. That is, until he breaks a seal at his grandfather's shrine, a seal that releases a demon! Or is she?

The Scoop: Consider this series "Anime 90210." Involving everything from magic to sci-fi, Tenchi always gets caught in the middle of weird girls fighting over him—Hello! Isn't this every guy's dream? It's an excellent combination of action and humor.

Didja Know?: Will the real Tenchi Muyo storyline please stand up? The manga series *No Need for Tenchi* picks up where the original animated storyline left off. But that conflicts with the second storyline of the anime. **Sigh** And you thought DC continuity was confusing...

THE TICK

MAJOR PLAYERS: Patrick Warburton (The Tick), David Burke (Arthur), Nestor Carbonell (Batmanuel, formerly Die Fledermaus), Liz Vassey (Captain Liberty, formerly American Maid), Ben Edlund (Creator, Executive Producer), and Barry Sonnefeld (Executive Producer).

TIME SLOT: "The Tick" is tagged as a mid-season replacement; it could hit as early as December 2000.

PREMISE: Using the character created from New England Comics, "The Tick" delivers quick-witted super-hero parody once more, but this time with real people! Defending the Tick's home city, The City, the Tick and his cronies Arthur, Bat Manuel and Captain Liberty fight against such ghastly baddies as the Red Scare. While they're not saving the world from tyranny and injustice, the Tick is sleeping on his sidekick Arthur's pull out bed and doing his best to cheer up the sad little moth.

THE SCOOP: Your first thought might be "How can they pull off 'The Tick' using real actors?" Relax. The costume designer, Colleen Atwood, has received three Academy Award nominations. She's worked on movies like "Edward Scissorhands," "Mars Attacks," and "Sleepy Hollow." Three of the four writers for the series also wrote for the cartoon series. The other writer? Oh, that'd be Ben Edlund, the creator of the Tick himself, who has the title of executive producer for the series. Throw in Barry Sonnefeld, who has "Men In Black" to his credit, and the fact that Patrick Warburton, who was Puddy from "Seinfeld," was the popular choice among fans to star as the Tick... too good to be true? We'll have to wait and see.

DIDJA KNOW?: The characters from the cartoon can't be used in the new series because of different companies holding the rights to those characters. So that means the Tick's pet, Speak, will not be appearing in the show. But Edlund has made comments online that he'd like to give the Tick a new pet, possibly in the form of an amoeba. ■ SJ

THE ZETA PROJECT

Major Players: Diedrich Bader (Zee/Zeta), Julie Nathanson (Ro), Kurtwood Smith (Agent Bennet), Michael Rosenbaum (Agen West), Lauren Tom (Angent Lee), Jean MacCurdy (Executive Producer), Alan Burnett (Supervising Producer)

Time Slot: Fridays 4:30 p.m. on Kids' WB!; premiere TBD

Premise: Ro, a 15-year old girl, discovers the Zeta robot, befriends it and accompanies him on a journey to find his creator.

The Scoop: Spinning off from "Batman Beyond," "The Zeta Project" tells ths tale of Ro and Zeta as they search for Zeta's creator. In the meantime, government agents are in hot pursuit to recapture Zeta, who was built as an anti-terrorist weapon. Ro and Zeta wind up helping people in trouble along the way which isn't made easy when the agents put out the word that Zeta's a public menace and a threat to human safety. Luckily, he can disguise himself as a teenage boy, able to fit right in with his pal Ro.

Didja Know?: Other characters from the Batman Beyond universe may show up in future episodes, but there's no specifics at this time (Terry McGinnis anyone?). ■ KC

by MIKE COTTON

the REAL thing

Made famous by MTV's 'The Real World,' **Judd Winick** emerges as comics' next superstar with the critically-acclaimed 'Pedro and Me' and a writing gig on 'Green Lantern'

STAR POWER
CELEBRITY COMIC CREATOR

'REAL' GOOD Though he takes over high-profile *Green Lantern*, Winick might make his biggest impact with the soul-stirring *Pedro and Me* (right).

Judd Winick: Jilly Wendell; Greg Rucka: Greg Rucka; Joph Loeb, J. Michael Straczynski: Paul Schiraldi

A dark, wet and musty smell fills the air of the gutted apartment at 953 Lombard St. in the Russian Hill district of San Francisco, one block below "The Crookedest Street in the World." Judd Winick kicks through the ashes and steps over the remains of his former "Real World" home as if he was negotiating his way through a minefield. A zombie-like stare—best described as something between shock and total disbelief—envelops the face of the usually charismatic, upbeat Winick.

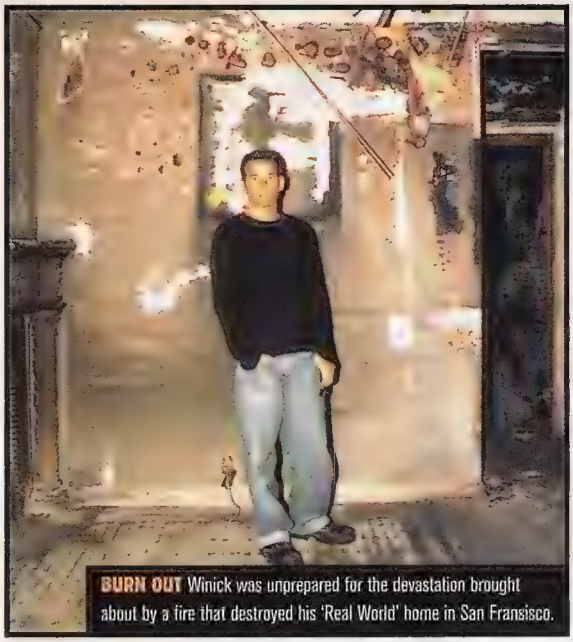
This isn't what the 30-year-old writer/artist behind the critically-acclaimed graphic novel *Pedro and Me* and new writer on DC Comics' *Green Lantern* had planned for his return to the three-story apartment. Winick expected to recount stories of his six months in MTV's fishbowl "The Real World." He planned on sharing touching tales about his friendship with "Real World" castmate and AIDS activist Pedro Zamora—the focus of *Pedro and Me*—who died just hours after the season finale aired in 1994. He hoped to reminisce about the first time he met castmate Pam Ling, his wife-to-be.

But now, after an unattended candle led to a raging inferno that ravaged the building just two days before this interview, Winick's left surveying boarded-up windows covered in black soot.

"This is so weird. I can't believe this," Winick says, running his finger over a destroyed pool table. "This is where my bed was...and over there was Pedro's.

"And over there's where Sean [Sasser] and Pedro had their ring ceremony. I met Pam for the first time on those steps. It's all gone now."

Winick's life has been a violent roller coaster of events the last eight years. From



BURN OUT Winick was unprepared for the devastation brought about by a fire that destroyed his 'Real World' home in San Fransisco.

having a hit cartoon strip in his college newspaper to moving back in with his parents on Long Island to a spot on MTV's smash "The Real World" to losing a friend to AIDS to becoming comics' newest "it" boy, Winick's experienced it all. But now as he trudges down the charred steps where he met his fiancée for the first time, he realizes this apartment wasn't just a home—it was the launching point for his career.

Six years after discovering fame as a member of the "Real World," Winick's *Green Lantern* #129 hit shelves this month, while *Pedro and Me* keeps receiving critical praise from comic legends like Frank Miller and Neil Gaiman and from mainstream publications such as *Entertainment Weekly*. The leap to a hot property in comics may seem an easy one for a man who had enormous exposure on MTV, but Winick isn't afraid to admit it wasn't easy reaching for that brass...er...green ring—even with his heightened publicity.

"Yeah, the show opened a lot of doors for me, but I still had to walk through them," Winick says as he lounges in the San Francisco apartment he shares with Ling and their two cats, Chaka and Sleestak. "After the show a lot of people recognize you but sometimes it doesn't always help as much as you'd have hoped."

Once, in particular, Winick attended a comic book convention in hopes of scoring some work. Standing in line to meet "Dogma" director and former *Daredevil* writer Kevin Smith, Winick thought the director would recognize him from MTV and the two could strike up a conversation.

There was only one problem.

"He looked at me with a totally blank stare," Winick recounts. "I thought, 'Hey, we're both about the same age. We're of the TV generation. He's got to be a fan of the show.' Nope. He just signed my book and I walked away."

The experience wasn't all bad, though. Bob Schreck, at the time an Oni Comics' editor, was just five feet away from Smith and a big fan of the "Real World."

"To be honest it all began and ended with Bob," Winick says. "We started talking and that's where things changed a little. I was working on *Pedro and Me* and took a break. That turned into *Road Trip* and then after another stint working on *Pedro and Me*, I did *Barry Ween*."

Road Trip, Winick's first real comic book work in 1998, told the tale of a brother and sister traveling across the country to claim the body of their dead brother. The touching yet witty book received an Eisner nomination but *Barry Ween* earned Winick widespread exposure. Ween, a 10-year-old boy with a 350 I.Q., remains Winick's baby. The series combines Winick's gift for humor and the sci-fi aspects he loves. While riding high on the success of *Barry Ween* and *Road Trip*, an old friend helped Winick make the leap to the big time.

Schreck bolted from Oni Press for DC and brought Winick with him as *Green Lantern* writer. Originally, Winick didn't know what to think about writing the ring slinger but Schreck put him at ease.

"When Bob asked me to do the book, I wasn't sure if he meant as a fill-in or as the regular writer," Winick says. "We'd actually been talking about it for awhile when I had to ask him, 'What am I doing? Fill-ins or what?' "

Schreck's reply was a simple one, "You're it. It's your book."

Winick remains shocked as to how Schreck managed to convince DC to let him write the book. A writer with no mainstream experience rarely gets such an opportunity but Winick relishes the chance. As he stretches out in a dinner booth in the Blue Sky Café, Winick recalls how excited and scared he was to take over from Ron Marz, the man who created current Green Lantern, Kyle Rayner. And then there's the matter of dealing with the Green Lantern

"There's no comparison. Hal was good but he's not Green Lantern, Hal's the Spectre now. Kyle's Green Lantern. There's only one GL right now and it's Kyle."

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

AMONG SPIDEY'S MORE FAMOUS FANS ARE "ROSWELL" STAR JASON BEHR, OILERS RUNNING BACK GARY BROWN AND CHIEFS WIDE RECEIVER ANDRE RISON, WHO EVEN DOES A "WEB-SHOOTER DANCE" ON THE FIELD.

Corps, a group Winick is a little more than fond of.

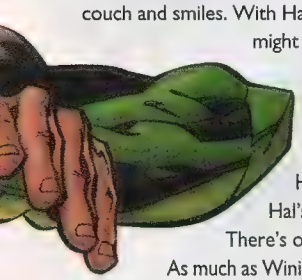
"There's something inherently cool about a group like the Corps," says Winick, as he orders a personal pizza. "It's such a powerful idea of all these guys out there in their little sectors. It might be fun to play with them. But there's also something so cool about Kyle being unique and being the last Green Lantern. I don't see the Corps coming back anytime soon. I mean…"

Before Winick can finish his thought, the "Real World" intrudes. Joe Lee, one of the partners in the small café, recognizes Winick. "You know, your show was the only one I ever watched every single week," Lee says with a smile, offering Winick a glass of tea. "So, what was up with that Puck dude? What's he doing now?"

The cartoonist offers a smile as he rolls his eyes. It doesn't take a brain surgeon to figure out the abrasive former "Real World" roommate isn't one of Winick's favorite subjects. But the unfailingly polite Winick smiles, shakes Lee's hand and starts talking about Puck, Pam and the show. Winick may get tired of the questions but he never gets tired of the people who ask them.

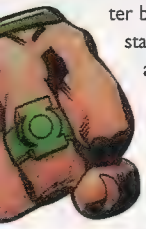
"People usually ask about two things," Winick says as he walks back to his apartment. "They either ask about Pedro or Puck. I don't get too many questions about comic books. It's not bad though; almost everyone's friendly."

With a Hal Jordan Green Lantern plush doll hanging from a curtain above his head and a huge framed group of enlarged photo-booth photos of he and Pam across the room, Winick sinks deep into his couch and smiles. With Hal Jordan just a few feet over his head, you might think the new *GL* writer has a thing for the Silver Age GL—but you'd be wrong.



"Asking if Hal or Kyle is better is like asking if Barry Allen or Wally West is better," Winick says. "There's no comparison. Hal was good but he's not Green Lantern, Hal's the Spectre now. Kyle's Green Lantern. There's only one GL right now and it's Kyle."

As much as Winick digs Kyle Rayner, he's not afraid to shake up the status quo in *Green Lantern*. He's already reshaped the character by giving him a real job as an illustrator for a trendy magazine, started to clean up his love life by reintroducing Jade and made him a more confident hero—but the changes aren't stopping there.



"We're going to build up to a big villain—an arch foe," Winick boasts. "I don't really think Kyle has one who measures up. He's there in the first issue if you look closely. Actually, he's right there. [*EDITOR'S NOTE: If you missed it, it's a Manhunter*] But it'll be a few issues before they duke it out. It'll probably be a double-sized issue."

But big fight scenes aren't the only things preoccupying Winick. As much as he enjoys a good outer space fight for world domination or a massacre on a distant world, the creator plans to make *Green Lantern* a socially relevant hero as well as a brawler—if DC will let him.

"I really want to do things you don't always see in comics like AIDS issues, things like that," Winick says. "Will I be able to do it? I hope so. There are some storylines we're kicking around but we've got to make sure everyone upstairs is okay with it. So far though, everything Bob [Schreck] and I have suggested has gone through with no problem."

While Winick continues to take chances with *Green Lantern*, he's taking an even bigger chance on his first full-length graphic novel. *Pedro and Me*, which ships in early September, recounts the powerful, emotional relationship Winick shared with Zamora.

"It took a long time for me to get far enough away from it to write about Pedro," Winick says. "Originally I wanted to just do anecdotes from the lecture tours but that was kind of avoiding what I really wanted to talk about. I had to talk about Pedro and what he went through. I had to talk about the pain of losing him."

Pedro and Me represents a long form of graphic novel almost nonexistent in today's comic market. In fact, a mainstream book publisher—not a comic book publisher—is placing *Pedro and Me* in both comic shops and bookstores. Although the creator went with Henry Holt and Company Publishing over other contenders such as Vertigo, he says he hopes comic fans will be lured in by the gripping and poignant tale.

"This isn't guys beating each other up," Winick says. "There aren't any flashy costumes. This is about life and death and friendship. It's not your usual comic shop fare."

Winick's biggest worry is that people will turn around and tell him exactly what he doesn't want to hear—"We wish it had been all prose. We don't like those little pictures." The writer admits that would be heartbreaking but he knows writing as well as celebrity can be a fickle thing. He also understands no matter how many comic books he writes, there's no escaping his "Real World" roots.

"The thing about the 'Real World' was it was the best and worst experience of my life," Winick says. "Pam and I are together so it's with me everyday. Hell, I even wrote a book about it. One day, I hope, I'll be Judd Winick the comic book guy and not Judd Winick the 'Real World' guy or at least Judd Winick the comic book guy from the 'Real World.' Who knows, right?"

With an acclaimed graphic novel and mainstream monthly series, Judd Winick is rapidly becoming the comic book guy and putting his "Real World" experience in the rear-view mirror. But after coming face-to-face with fame, AIDS, death and true love the past eight years, Winick knows those memories will be as hard to shake as the charred smell of his burned-out apartment.

To see more photos of Judd Winick's San Francisco hangouts and ravaged "Real World" home, go to wizardworld.com.

hollywood HEROES

Judd Winick had already begun his career in comics when he shot to stardom on MTV's "Real World." But many high-profile screenwriters and novelists have used their Hollywood star power to make the jump from mainstream entertainment into their first love–comic books. Just take a look:

GREG RUCKA

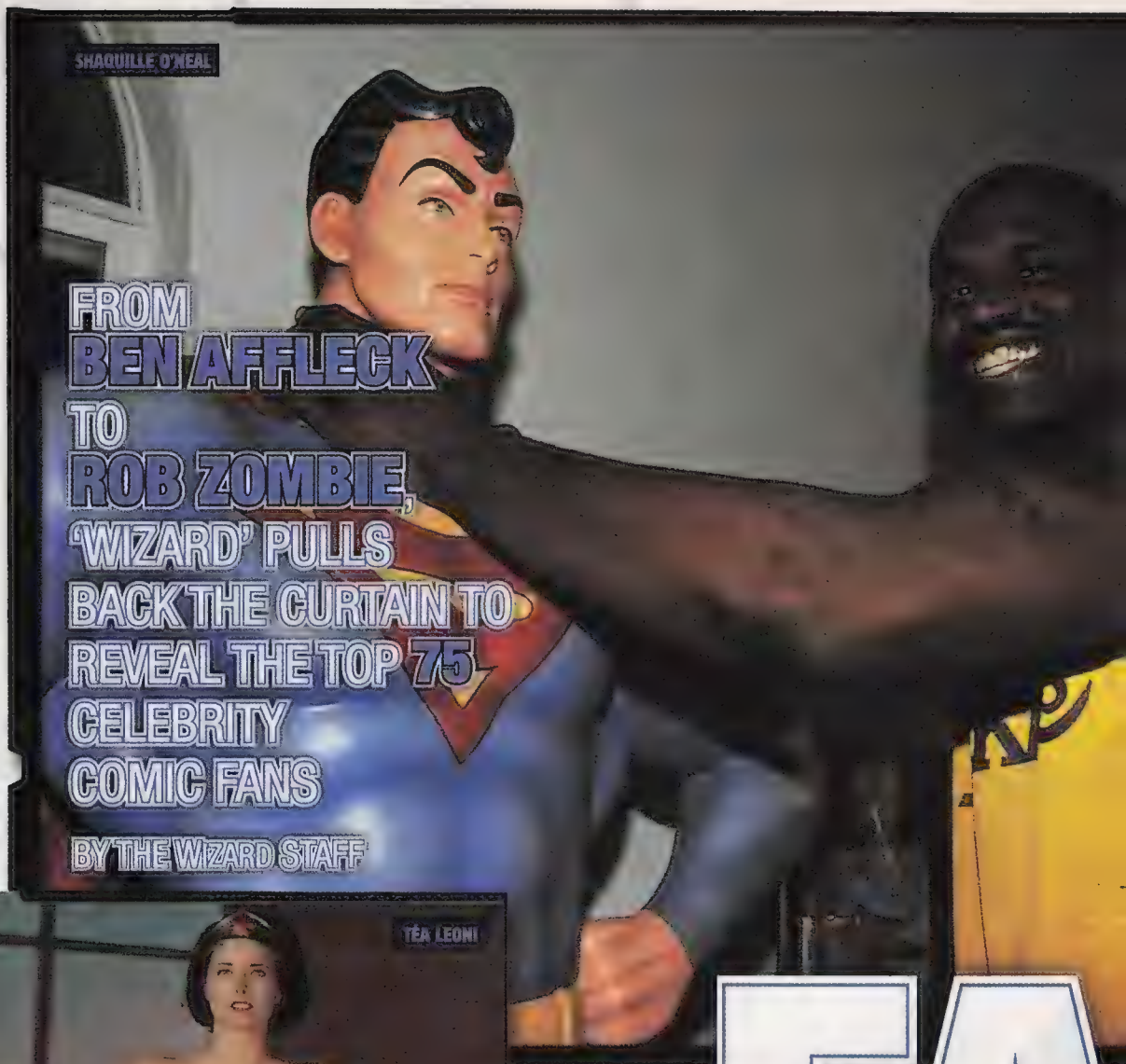
Greg Rucka always loved comics. But with two hit novels under his belt, "Keeper" and "Finder," it looked like he'd found his writing niche in crime fiction writing. At least that was until he helped redefine *Batman* in the "No Man's Land" storyline and landed the job as the permanent *Detective Comics* writer. Since then he's published two more novels, "Smoker" and "Shooting at Midnight," and wowed fans with Oni Press' *Whiteout* and *Whiteout: Melt*.

JEPH LOEB

After writing such hit movies as "Teen Wolf," "Teen Wolf Too" and "Commando" and executive producing "Firestorm" and "Burglar," Jeph Loeb stunned the comic book community with his classic takes on heroes in *Superman for all Seasons*, *Batman: The Long Halloween* and *Batman: Dark Victory* as well as his hip and up-to-date take on *Superman* in the monthly title.

J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI

Sci-fi fans have worshipped J. Michael Straczynski for nearly a decade. After creating the hit television series "Babylon 5" and its spinoff "Crusade," Straczynski jumped into a full-time comics gig with Top Cow's *Rising Stars*. Buoyed by the tremendous success of *Rising Stars*, Top Cop awarded Straczynski his own imprint, Joe's Comics. ■ MC



FROM BEN AFFLECK TO ROB ZOMBIE, 'WIZARD' PULLS BACK THE CURTAIN TO REVEAL THE TOP 75 CELEBRITY COMIC FANS

BY THE WIZARD STAFF

STAR POWER

CELEBRITY FANBOYS

O' Neal: NBA Photos/Andrew D. Bernstein, Leoni: Everett Collection, Smith: Paul Schmidt, Corey: ABC Television.

Matt Damon and Ben Affleck spent their childhood riveted to X-Men cartoons when they weren't flying around their Massachusetts homes with capes around their necks. A young Nicolas Cage would go into his Incredible Hulk mode, ripping off his shirt and screaming wildly to ward off bullies. Shaquille O'Neal, Jerry Seinfeld and Joey Fatone of 'N Sync worship Superman—sporting everything from tattoos to jewelry to customized vehicles featuring the Man of Steel. Heck, Shaq has even turned part of his home into a Superman shrine. Tori Amos and Claire Danes are self-professed Neil Gaiman junkies, and Amos and Gaiman have formed such a bond that Gaiman will call her up and read her bedtime stories.

The list goes on and on...Vin Diesel, Samuel L. Jackson, Freddie Prinze Jr., Howard Stern and even Mike Tyson.

For celebrities, comics hold the same engrossing appeal as they do for everyone else—superpowered heroes and villains, addicting storylines and breathtaking art. The only difference is celebrities get to use their fame to spread the good word about their love for comics. And we decided to share that with you—the WIZARD top 75 list of celebrity comic fans.

MOUS FANS

BEN AFFLECK

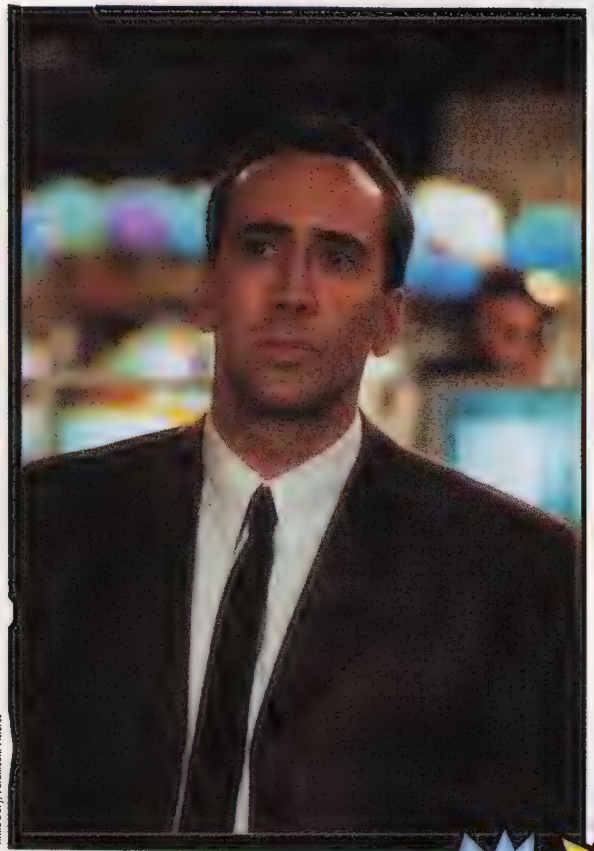
Claim to Fame: The on-again, off-again boyfriend of Gwyneth Paltrow and one of *People Magazine*'s 50 Most Beautiful People in the World, Affleck struck gold in 1998 when he won an Academy Award for the screenplay he co-wrote with boyhood pal Matt Damon for the film "Good Will Hunting." Affleck has also been a staple in buddy Kevin Smith's films, appearing in "Mallrats," "Chasing Amy" and "Dogma."

Comic Connection: Affleck wrote the introduction to Kevin Smith's *Daredevil: Visionaries* trade paperback, in which he describes the profound effect Frank Miller's *Daredevil* run had on him when he was younger. In addition, a New York City tabloid once reported that Affleck would agree to play Batman in the fifth movie of the franchise—so long as Paltrow could play Catwoman. Needless to say, his request fell on deaf ears.

Quotable: "[*Daredevil*] was my own personal induction into the world of personal ambiguity. It was a dark corner, a place where my sympathies were uncertain...It was a strange and wonderful place where true love was always tragic, heroes had a dark side, villains were roguishly likable and the best one could hope for was some sliver of redemption."

Cool Comic Fact: In "Chasing Amy," Affleck played a self-published comic creator who teamed with Jason Lee to produce the cult hit "Bluntman and Chronic," which can be seen featured on a cover of WIZARD in the movie. Smith admits that "Chasing Amy" is the closest of his movies to being an autobiography and casting Affleck was "wishful thinking."

Darren Michaels/Dreamworks



Attila Dory/Paramount Pictures

NICOLAS CAGE

Claim to Fame: An A-List Hollywood actor known for his offbeat and slightly crazy roles, Cage played an alcoholic in "Leaving Las Vegas," a stressed-out ambulance driver in "Bringing Out the Dead" and a retired car thief in "Gone in 60 Seconds," just to name a few.

Comic Connection: Cage is an avid comic book collector who sees the medium as being today's equivalent of mythology. Until recently, he was set to star in Tim Burton's ill-fated Superman project—he did fittings of the costume even while the film was on indefinite hold due to budget and story concerns.

Quotable: "The Greeks had their mythology, and this is ours—Mickey Mouse and Batman and Superman and Coca-Cola—they're our pride. The story of Batman is a modern myth."

Cool Comic Fact: The nephew of legendary director Francis Ford Coppola, Cage's real name is Nicolas Coppola. To avoid any suspicions of nepotism, he had his name changed to Nicolas Cage as a tribute to Luke Cage, Marvel's blaxploitation comic book character from the '70s. The self-described "skinny little runt of a kid" once scared off a bully from beating him up by pulling an Incredible Hulk routine, ripping his shirt off and screaming wildly. He has also said that if he wasn't an actor he'd be "starting a music company and a comic book company." Cage reportedly has a huge comic book collection in his Hollywood Hills mansion.

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

DID YOU KNOW SUPERMAN AND BATMAN USED TO MIX IT UP ON THE BASKETBALL COURT? WELL, AT LEAST DEAN CAIN ("LOIS & CLARK: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN") AND GEORGE CLOONEY ("BATMAN & ROBIN") DID—THEY USED TO PLAY PICKUP HOOPS WHILE BOTH WERE FILMING ON THE WARNER BROS. LOT IN LOS ANGELES.

Phil Bray/Paramount Pictures and Miramax Films

MATT DAMON

Claim to Fame: With his megawatt smile and boyish charm, Damon has emerged as one of Hollywood's hottest hunks, a long way from his days as a Harvard dropout. Damon teamed with best bud Ben Affleck to win a Best Screenplay Oscar for "Good Will Hunting" in 1998, and Damon also earned a Best Actor nomination.

Comic Connection: The voice of Cal in 20th Century Fox's animated sci-fi adventure "Titan A.E.," Damon was reportedly part of a package deal—including directors Robert Rodriguez and Kevin Smith—that Marvel Knights' Editors Joe Quesada and Jimmy Palmiotti were set to deliver for a "Daredevil" movie with Damon starring as Matt Murdock for Miramax. Marvel reportedly passed on the offer, preferring to sell the Daredevil rights to another studio.

Quotable: "If you put me and [Ben Affleck] together, you might actually make a whole, creative, interesting individual. We're a lot like the Wonder Twins."

Cool Comic Fact: Damon and Affleck, who grew up two blocks from each other in Cambridge, Massachusetts, used to both dress up as superheroes when they were young, flying around the house with red towels around their necks. The pair would also watch episodes of "Super Friends" and "X-Men" cartoons together.

CLAIRE DANES

Claim to Fame: Widely recognized for her role in the breakthrough television drama "My So-Called Life," Danes also earned critical acclaim for performances in such non-traditional films as "Romeo + Juliet" and "To Gillian on Her 37th Birthday." She also revived the 1960s TV cult classic "The Mod Squad," playing Julie Barnes in the 1999 film version.

Comic Connection: Danes has been a longtime fan and admirer of Vertigo's *Death* and was responsible for the introduction that accompanied the *Death: The Time of Your Life* graphic novel.

Quotable: "We think Death is a bad thing, but here she's the best kind of pal; she makes our choice for us and tells us by her example that obsessing about things like violence and greed and prejudice and loneliness keeps us from being close to people and having fun and getting our good work done; it's wasteful of our time here."

Cool Comic Fact: Claire also provided the voice of San, the heroine from the anime import "Princess Mononoke." Coincidentally, the film was co-adapted to the English language by *Sandman* and *Death* scribe Neil Gaiman.

Frank Connor/MGM Pictures

VIN DIESEL

Claim to Fame: A tough-guy actor with a throaty voice and bustling biceps, Vin Diesel's stock has been soaring thanks to small but memorable roles in "Saving Private Ryan," "Pitch Black" and "Boiler Room."

Comic Connection: Diesel's a total comic book freak! He's suggested—half-jokingly—that he'd like to star in a movie as the Hulk, and face off against "Gladiator" star Russell Crowe as the Thing or Juggernaut. He also voiced the giant in the animated film "The Iron Giant."

Quotable: "If you had asked me as a kid what I wanted to be when I grew up, I would have said an actor or a superhero. Big sci-fi fan, big comic book fan, played *Dungeons & Dragons* my whole life. It's so funny because people think of me as this bouncer, this tough guy, but there's more to it than that. Because if you've been collecting comic books as a kid, every kid is imagining being in those comic books, being their heroes."

Cool Comic Fact: Vin's been mentioned in connection with a possible Silver Surfer movie—and he's said he'd jump at the chance to play the silver-skinned herald of Galactus.

Gerardo Somoza/Outline

EJ Camp/Outline

JANEANE GAROFALO

Claim to Fame: The sarcastic yet cool comedienne-turned-actress has had roles in all kinds of movies and TV shows, ranging from an insecure DJ in "The Truth About Cats and Dogs" to a sheriff's deputy in "Cop Land" and a lesbian on "The Sopranos."

Comic Connection: Garofalo starred as the Bowler in the superhero farce "Mystery Men," which co-starred her good friend Ben Stiller. She's also pretty tight with comics *über*-guy Kevin Smith, who gave her a brief role in his film "Dogma." Though she never fantasized about being a superhero growing up, she's now a fan of graphic novels like *Eightball*, *Hate* and *Love and Rockets*. During an MTV special to promote "Mystery Men," she also mentioned being a big fan of Garth Ennis' *Preacher*.

Quotable: When asked what her superpower would be: "The ability to generate quarters at a moment's notice, so that when I see a meter maid about to write a ticket, I would be able to just deposit them in the meter and confound them immediately. That would be my superpower."

Cool Comic Fact: There's hope for ya, fanboys! Janeane recently told Comedy Central's "The Daily Show" that her ideal boyfriend is a "dork who faithfully goes to the comic shop every Wednesday." The line forms to the right!

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

ADAM DURITZ, THE FLOPPY-HAIRED LEAD SINGER OF ALTERNATIVE BAND COUNTING CROWS, WORKED ON THE MOVIE "THE BURN" WITH "X-MEN" DIRECTOR BRYAN SINGER AND ALSO VISITED THE "X-MEN" SET WHEN HE WAS IN TORONTO. DURITZ SAYS HE READ COMIC BOOKS WHEN HE WAS A KID.

ABC, Inc.

STEPHEN KING

Claim to Fame: King, the much touted "Master of Horror," ranks as one of the most famous writers in the world, having over 300 million copies of his novels in publication in 35 different countries and in 33 different languages. In addition, over 50 of his writings have been adapted to both the small and big screen, including the well-received "The Green Mile" with Tom Hanks.

Comic Connection: King has always been a big-time comic book fan and has proven his allegiance by writing introductions to a number of collections, including *Sandman: World's End* and *Batman* #400, in which he mentions his admiration for Frank Miller's mini-series *The Dark Knight Returns*.

Quotable: "On the cover of each *Sandman* issue, the phrase 'Suggested for Mature Readers' appears, and I'd argue that it doesn't mean it's full of gore, sex and naughty words (although there are some of all those things, thank heavens); it means that if you're not old enough to chew this stuff for yourself, maybe you'd better go back to Spider-Man and the X-Men and the Fantastic Four a little longer. Pictures and word balloons don't mean dumb, and amen to that, brother."

Cool Comic Fact: Stephen King writing the X-Men? Not a dream, not a hoax, not an imaginary story! It actually happened in *X-Men: Heroes for Hope*, an '80s benefit book produced to benefit hunger relief organizations. In King's three-page sequence, Kitty Pryde falls before the power of a mysterious demon who calls himself simply "Hungry."

CONAN O'BRIEN

Claim to Fame: Red-haired, befreckled star of his own talk show, "Late Night with Conan O'Brien," who also worked as a writer on "The Simpsons" and "Saturday Night Live."

Comic Connection: Claims to be an Incredible Hulk fan, possibly for high comedic value of a grunting green character. Turns into "Incredible Hulk O'Brien" on his show.

Quotable: When told producer Jon Peters wanted Sean Penn to play Superman in a film: "Sean Penn, that would be so cool. A Superman who smokes. 'Hey, Superman got drunk in a bar last night and killed two guys on a bar! He hit them and their heads atomized!'"

Cool Comic Fact: O'Brien left "Saturday Night Live" in 1991 to co-produce a pilot starring TV's Batman, Adam West, as a former TV detective who begins to battle crime in real life. The pilot tanked. As a student at Harvard, O'Brien also stole Burt Ward's Robin costume. Ward was scheduled to display the costume at the school, so O'Brien and friends dressed up as security guards and swiped the costume—as another friend in the audience dressed as the Penguin distracted Ward. O'Brien and friends then spent the next few hours calling up Ward saying, "This is the Joker, hee-hee-hee. I've got your costume."

NBC Television

SHAQUILLE O'NEAL

Claim to Fame: Shaquille O'Neal, the 7-foot-1, 335-pound, $121-million MVP for the NBA world-champion Los Angeles Lakers, has become a pop-culture icon with five rap CDs and three movies to his credit.

Comic Connection: Obsessed with the comic book hero Superman, O'Neal has constructed a shrine in his home to the character (even though he admits to also reading *X-Men* and *Wolverine*). He's even customized his Bentley, converting the steering wheel into a Superman emblem. His custom-made Titan motorcycle is adorned with a Superman logo as well as his helmet. His game room features 10 framed Superman covers on the wall. O'Neal even starred as Superman's JLA teammate Steel in the critically panned 1997 film "Steel," about the DC superhero who fights crime in an impenetrable suit of armor.

Quotable: "I got my Superman tattoo five years ago. I've got a collection of everything with a Superman emblem on it. Everything. And I still have the hammer [from 'Steel.'] It has a demagnetizer and a gadget gun."

Cool Comic Fact: With the Superman emblem emblazoned on almost everything he owns, Shaq's headboard and sheets are something you'd expect to find in a 7-year-old's room, not an NBA superstar's. Plus, he named his Rottweiler "Thor."

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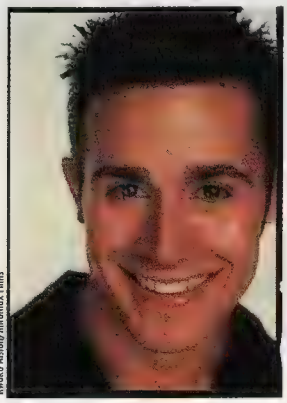
FREDDIE PRINZE JR.

Claim to Fame: Pretty-boy, teen-movie heartthrob. Star of "She's All That," "Wing Commander" and "Boys and Girls." Has made it onscreen with Rachel Leigh Cook and Claire Danes. Great hair.

Comic Connection: Prinze admits he's a huge Spider-Man fan, and was in discussions to appear as Peter Parker in the upcoming feature. Along with the Spider-Man movie, he lists a Speed Racer film as a dream project. Prinze grew up in New Mexico reading *X-Men* and *Spider-Man* and now lists his favorite books as *X-Men*, *Deadpool* and *Hellboy*. He has made friends with Stan Lee and even calls him Stanley.



Kwaku Alston/Miramax Films

Quotable: "I would love to be a superhero. That's my main dream. I read comic books like a maniac! My whole life, I live in the Marvel Universe. Peter Parker is the most human of all the characters Stanley has created. He's a kid with normal kid's problems, only he's dealing with them as a superhero."

Cool Comic Fact: Financially stable Prinze wears a Spider-Man watch he bought for $29.95, and claims that he's got no fears of anyone stealing it. In high school, he honed his acting skills by pretending to be an X-Man named Prism, whose powers would shoot out in all directions. Says Prinze: "People thought I was a nut."

JERRY SEINFELD

Claim to Fame: Bursting onto the scene with his "show about nothing," Seinfeld's domination of the Thursday night lineup during the '90s caused NBC's ratings to soar, earning him an unprecedented $1 million per episode.

Comic Connection: A huge fan of DC Comics' Superman, Seinfeld made frequent Man of Steel references during his show's nine-year run. (He even framed an entire episode around Bizarro, one of the hero's quirkiest enemies.) Props on the "Seinfeld" set included superhero paraphernalia such as Superman busts and refrigerator magnets. At times, Jerry would also mention Aquaman, a character he often joked about.

Andrew Brusso/Outline

Quotable: Jerry to George on the show: "You can't cast aspersions on someone just because they're wearin' a cape. Superman wore a cape. And I'll be damned if I'm gonna stand here and let you say something bad about him."

Cool Comic Fact: Seinfeld fought to have former "Adventures of Superman" star Jack Larson (Jimmy Olsen) appear in an American Express commercial he did with an animated Superman. Larson is seen reading a newspaper in front of the *Daily Planet* building. Patrick Warburton (Puddy from "Seinfeld") provides the voice-over for Superman. In real life, Jerry's father's real name is Kal, which is Superman's name on Krypton.

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

DURING AN ON-AIR INTERVIEW EARLIER THIS YEAR WITH MR. MARVEL, STAN "THE MAN" LEE, SYNDICATED TALK-SHOW HOST LARRY KING ADMITTED THAT HIS FAVORITE ALL-TIME SUPERHERO IS DAREDEVIL.

HOWARD STERN

Claim to Fame: Radio shock jock who reinvented talk radio with his outrageous antics featuring everything from kissing lesbians to alcoholic dwarves. He has also conquered Hollywood with his surprise hit movie "Private Parts."

Comic Connection: A self-professed comic junkie, Stern frequently devotes airtime to discussingcomics. He's weighed in on *Daredevil*, "Clerks" and "Dogma" with frequent guest Kevin Smith, trashed Marvel and its treatment of Todd McFarlane with McFarlane himself and debated what a Superman film should be like with Nicolas Cage. In addition to claiming his uncle was a famous DC artist in the 1940s, Howard lists his top five favorite comic characters of all time as: 1) Superman; 2) Batman; 3) Spider-Man; 4) the Fantastic Four; 5) Daredevil.

Randee St. Nicholas/CBS

Quotable: "I love *Spawn*. That is a great comic. And the HBO series is great. But what I want to know, why a black man as the lead character?"

Cool Comic Fact: Stern recently attended an art showing for Alex Ross and Paul Dini's *Batman: War on Crime* in New York City. When the event got too crowded, Stern departed, but arranged for Ross and Dini to come to his radio show the next day so that he could get a private showing of the art.

QUENTIN TARANTINO

Claim to Fame: A writer/director extraordinaire who made the successful leap from video-game clerk. He has made his reputation with violent films peppered with pop-culture references and plenty of swearing. Tarantino helped resuscitate John Travolta's career with "Pulp Fiction."

Comic Connection: The longtime comic fan has been rumored to want to direct a Madman film. He also scribed his own *From Dusk Till Dawn* comic adaptation for Tekno Comics in 1996, based on his film starring George Clooney and Harvey Keitel.

Quotable: "I had a whole bunch of G.I. Joes and I would always play movies. I would just do my version of whatever I saw, and then I would like be acting out all the parts with all the G.I. Joes, and I would be directing these little plays just for myself with the G.I. Joes."

Jeff Slocomb/Outline

Cool Comic Fact: Tarantino fills his movies with comic book references. As script doctor for "Crimson Tide," he inserted a scene where two naval officers fight over the artistic merits of Jack Kirby's Silver Surfer. In "Reservoir Dogs," the character Freddie has a Silver Surfer poster on the wall and talks about the Fantastic Four. In "True Romance," Christian Slater's character works in a comic book store.

Randy Tepper/Gramercy Pictures

THE WACHOWSKI BROS.

Claim to Fame: The writing/directing siblings (32-year-old Andy and 34-year-old Larry) were responsible for "The Matrix," possibly the best movie with a comic book sensibility not based on a comic book. The Keanu Reeves-Laurence Fishburne other-dimensional action flick raked in $171.4 million domestically, and plans for two sequels have already been announced.

Comic Connection: The Wachowski Brothers (as they like to be known) are big on comics. They based some of the filmography for their film "Bound" on Frank Miller's *Sin City*. When Warner Bros. executives failed to fully grasp the concept of "The Matrix," the Wachowskis turned to comic book artists to illustrate the concept through storyboards. Former *Wolverine* artist Steve Skroce storyboarded the film and is already at work on the sequel, while former Miller collaborator Geoff Darrow (*Big Guy and Rusty the Boy Robot*) helped achieve the visual look for the film. The brothers worked in comics years ago, scribing the Clive Barker-inspired *Ectokid* for Marvel Comics' ill-fated "Barkerverse" line and the *Hellraiser* series.

Quotable: "[Movies and comics are] very similar. It's all connected. It's all coming out of the same place. They're all culturally important. Both have very short attention spans, though at least comics aren't afraid of ideas."

Cool Comic Fact: Grant Morrison once threatened to sue the duo, claiming their "Matrix" was a direct rip-off of his *Invisibles* series. The Wachowskis also wrote two more comic-based scripts—Plastic Man for Amblin Entertainment in 1996, which never materialized into a movie, and an adaptation of Alan Moore's *V for Vendetta* for Warner Bros. The pair have also been rumored to have been offered the opportunity to helm the next Batman movie, a Frank Miller *Year One*-type story.

ABC Television

DREW CAREY

The Cleveland-based comedian who looks a lot like a real-life Dilbert has featured superheroes prominently in his self-titled TV show, even basing an entire episode around them. In that episode, Carey won the Batmobile but lost it when he tried to have sex in the backseat. There have also been mentions of Green Lantern, Catwoman and Spider-Man on the show.

TORI AMOS The singer and piano prodigy has forged a bond with *Sandman* writer Neil Gaiman. Amos has included Gaiman's name in song lyrics and wrote the introduction to *Death: The High Cost of Living* trade paperback. Gaiman has cast Amos as a talking tree in his novel *Stardust*.

PAMELA ANDERSON The voluptuous "Baywatch" babe and *Playboy* cover girl a record five times was such a huge Barb Wire fan that she helped bring the Dark Horse Comic to the big screen. Anderson liked Barb Wire's barbed wire tattoo so much, she got one for her arm!

SEBASTIAN BACH The former Skid Row lead singer and current Broadway star is an avid action figure collector and comics fan. His bathroom contains figures from Todd McFarlane's "Kiss: Psycho Circus" line and other figures of Thing and the Hulk.

BARENAKED LADIES These offbeat Canadian rockers pepper their songs with superhero references, mentioning Aquaman, Sailor Moon and the Fantastic Four in the songs "One Week" and "Same Thing."

ABRAHAM BENRUBI The actor (Jerry the Intern on "ER") is a frequent visitor of the Golden Apple comics store in L.A (see our feature on page 64). He collects X-Men, Spawn and Savage Dragon titles, and other favorites include *Madman*, *Untold Tales of Spider-Man* and *Stray Bullets*.

BIG POPPA PUMP The WCW wrestler with the eye-popping biceps sports a Superman tattoo and likes to wear trunks with the Superman symbol on them into the ring.

JON BON JOVI He's sold 80 million albums with the band Bon Jovi and has starred in the underwater adventure "U-571." He also sports a Superman tattoo and reads *Superman* and *Uncle Scrooge* comics. He auditioned for the role of Ashe in the second installment of "The Crow" series but was beat out by French actor Vincent Pérez.

BONO The U2 lead singer is a regular visitor of a Dublin-based comic book store. He usually stops by when he's in town to pick up the occasional Bat-book.

TERRY BUTLER The former Black Sabbath member has a song on his solo CD called "Detective #27," a reference to the 1939 comic which featured the first appearance of Batman.

CHRIS CARTER The "X-Files" creator cites *Tales from the Crypt* comics as an early influence of his writing.

NICK CARTER This Backstreet Boy pursued a relationship with Marvel legend Stan Lee that ultimately led to the creation of an online comic on stanlee.net.

JOHN CUSACK This neurotically funny actor ("Say Anything") has an affinity for another famous nerd–Peter Parker. Cusack would love to fill Spidey's tights on screen "but I think I'd have to drug and immobilize Leonardo DiCaprio and all the other young punks who are trying to take that role away from me," he said.

GLENN DANZIG The rocker from his self-titled band likes comics so much he started his own comic company, Verotik, which dabbles in adult titles such as *Satanika*, *Venus Domina* and *Wing Bird*.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO The "Titanic" hunk has been spotted in interviews wearing Daredevil and Spidey T-shirts. He's even been rumored to purchase entire lines of Mego action figures and He-Man action figures at comic book conventions.

CHRIS ELLIOTT The former guy-under-the-stairs from David Letterman's "Late Night" TV show used to display a Venom action figure prominently on his desk in his sitcom, "Get a Life."

HARLAN ELLISON The acclaimed sci-fi writer who has also written for TV's "Star Trek" and "Babylon 5" has been reading and collecting comics since he was a kid. There's even an interesting mini-essay he wrote on Superman at the website www.fortress.am/ellison.html.

JOEY FATONE This 'N Sync teen dream is a self-proclaimed Superman nut whose obsession began with a Man of Steel charm given to him by a fan. He owns a diamond-and-gold necklace in the shape of the Superman logo and ruby and diamond Superman earrings. He also has the Superman emblem tattooed on his ankle.

BRENDAN FRASER This goofy actor loves bringing cartoon characters to life–just look at the films "George of the Jungle" and "Dudley Doright"–and next stars in "Monkeybone," a stop-action movie in which a cartoonist sinks into a coma and meets his creation face-to-face.

BILL GATES The Microsoft CEO and famous rich guy is a huge Superman buff who once bought out all the Superman merchandise in a specialty store.

TOPHER GRACE As Eric on "That '70s Show," Grace stocks his basement with comic books like *The Defenders* and *Ka-Zar*.

RICHARD GRIECO The former "Booker" and "21 Jump Street" star buys comics every week and is specifically a Ghost Rider fanatic. He also voiced Ghost Rider on the animated Fantastic Four and Hulk shows.

SETH GREEN The action figure nut (he once built figures of his "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" castmates as presents) attends the San Diego Comic Convention and lists his favorite character as Nightcrawler.

MATT GROENING "The Simpsons" creator has built his love for comics into the Simpsons franchise, featuring an ongoing character simply known as the Comic Book Guy. The Comic Book Guy actually looks like Groening. Groening, who grew up reading *Mad*, EC horror comics and *Superman*, is a fan of independent comics like David Boswell's *Reid Fleming, World's Toughest Milkman* and Peter Bagge's *Hate*.

MARK HAMILL The "Star Wars" veteran collects comics and even writes them–he penned *Black Pearl* for Dark Horse Comics. He also voiced the Joker on the Batman animated series.

KIRK HAMMET The lead guitarist of the rock group Metallica has an impressive comic collection that reportedly includes a copy of *Detective Comics* #27, the first appearance of Batman.

HUGH JACKMAN Hey, we all know him as Wolverine, but did you know his favorite superhero while growing up was Superman? He also cites Plastic Man as an early favorite. "But, thank goodness, I wasn't into wearing my underwear over my pants," he says.

Jean-Francois Robert/Outline

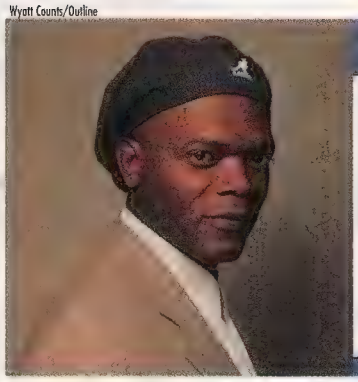
JOHNNY DEPP

A TV teen heartthrob turned respected actor, Depp was a driving force in bringing Alan Moore's "From Hell" movie to the screen. Depp is currently shooting the film about Jack the Ripper in Prague. Depp has also been targeted to play the lead role as the anti-hero with a flaming skull in the recently announced "Ghost Rider" film from Marvel and Artisan Entertainment.

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

TOM CRUISE ("MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE II") WOULD JUST LOVE TO PORTRAY TONY STARK IN NEW LINE CINEMA'S IRON MAN PROJECT. HECK, HE'D EVEN BE WILLING TO PRODUCE IT. CRUISE HAS ALSO OPTIONED ROB LIEFELD'S *DOOM'S IV* PROJECT, BUT WE'RE STILL WAITING TO SEE WHERE THAT ONE GOES.

Wyatt Counts/Outline



SAMUEL L. JACKSON

This bad mutha from "Pulp Fiction" and "Shaft" knows a bad-ass team when he sees one. That's why he's a huge *Avengers* fan. In his upcoming film, "Unbreakable," Jackson plays "a comic book store guy who has this interesting kind of disease," explains Jackson. "When I bump into stuff, I break my bones."

LAST EMPEROR The rapper performs a song called "Secret Wars" on MTV's *Celebrity Deathmatch* CD where superheroes are pitted against rappers.

JOHN LEGUIZAMO The multi-talented actor (he was the Clown in the "Spawn" movie) loves the X-Men, and he has a particular fondness for Nightcrawler.

NORM MACDONALD The comedian and former "Saturday Night Live" star performs a comedy routine where he blasts Reed Richards for being so full of himself for taking on the name Mr. Fantastic.

SETH MACFARLANE The "Family Guy" creator has stated that the animated classics "Thundercats" and "He-Man" were early influences of his craft.

MARILYN MANSON The controversial rocker consider himself a huge Spawn aficionado. Admit it–are you really surprised?

JAMES MARSTERS The actor who portrays Spike on "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" worships Frank Miller. "His style is the best example of the harsh-lined, graphic new style. His use of light is extraordinary. And almost everyone gets beat up, which is cool!"

PAUL McCARTNEY The former Beatle not only wrote a song about a couple of Marvel villains ("Magneto vs. Titanium Man" on Paul McCartney and the Wings' album *Venus and Mars*), but he's also visited the famed Marvel bullpen on more than one occasion.

JERRY O'CONNELL O'Connell ("Scream 2") is a huge comic fan and displayed a Tellos comic in his film "Mission to Mars." He also starred in the 1988-90 syndicated show "My Secret Identity" as a comic fan who accidentally gains superpowers.

JOE PERRY The Aerosmith band member and Spider-Man buff wrote the theme song to the '90s animated Spidey series.

POP WILL EAT ITSELF The British band cites a lot of comic references in their songs, including samples of Alan Moore's writing and Joker-isms from the first Batman movie.

LEE PRIEST The professional bodybuilder likes to wear a Superman necklace when he's not competing.

SAM RAIMI The "Spider-Man" director started as a die-hard DC Comics fan, having read all the Superman and Batman comics he could get. But thanks to his brother, Sander, he gave Spider-Man a try and became hooked on Stan Lee's writing.

THE RAMONES The punk icons recorded a remake of the theme song from the Spider-Man animated series for a CD collection of Saturday morning cartoon songs.

RAVEN The pro wrestler is an avid fan of the Marvel Knights titles and of other books like *Sandman*. He even wears Daredevil, Sandman, Silver Surfer or Inhumans T-shirts into the ring before he wrestles.

KEANU REEVES The longtime comic fan was rumored to be in the running for the role of Batman in "Batman 5," and he has also stated that he would be interested in playing Gambit in the "X-Men" movie.

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ The director of "From Dusk Till Dawn" and "The Faculty" has authored the introduction to an issue of Mike Allred's *Red Rocket 7* series.

ANTONIO SABATO JR. The actor and former soap star idol ("General Hospital") owns a black leather jacket that bears the Batman symbol.

JOE SATRIANI The legendary rock artist featured an image of the Silver Surfer on the cover of his 1986 album *Surfin' with an Alien*.

GENE SIMMONS The KISS frontman has always had an affinity for superheroes, ranging from personal favorite Silver Surfer to his plans to produce movies based on Jon Sable and an animated Evil Ernie project. Simmons personally recruited Todd McFarlane for the *KISS: The Psycho Circus* comic and KISS action figure line.

JOHN SINGLETON Director John Singleton ("Shaft") wants to direct a Black Panther movie and is also a big fan of Todd McFarlane's artwork.

KERR SMITH A comic fan who desperately wanted to play Spider-Man, Smith (Jack on "Dawson's Creek") also confesses to being a huge Trekkie.

KEVIN SMITH The independent director has built a cult following by inserting comic-related references into his films. Smith now writes comics, including a stint on *Daredevil* and an upcoming run on *Green Arrow*. He even owns his own comic store–Jay and Silent Bob's Secret Stash in Red Bank, New Jersey–where he sometimes works the cash register.

WESLEY SNIPES He's breathed life into Marvel's vampire hunter with "Blade"–a sequel is in the works. But Snipes has another pet project in mind–bringing Black Panther to the big screen.

PATRICK STEWART Stewart, who has starred as the *U.S.S. Enterprise* captain and Professor Xavier in the "Star Trek" and "X-Men" films, reads the comics *Transmetropolitan* and *From Hell*.

COREY TAYLOR The lead singer of the nine-man, mask-wearing, neo-metal band Slipknot, is a devoted Spider-Man fan. One of his prized possessions is a ring that bears a detailed rendition of Spidey's head.

WILMER VALDERRAMA The "That '70s Show" co-star (Fez) has stated that he's a big Spider-Man fan "because I can relate to him. I wear very tight pants on the show and he wears tights."

RASHEED WALLACE The Portland Trailblazers power forward has a huge action figure collection and loves to read X-Men comics.

WEEZER This alternative L.A. band sang about X-Men team members Kitty Pride and Nightcrawler in their song "In the Garage" in their 1994 self-titled album.

ROBIN WILLIAMS The actor who's starred as Popeye and voiced the genie from the Disney movie "Aladdin" is an avid reader of Warren Ellis' *Transmetropolitan*.

ROB ZOMBIE The hard-rocker, who has often been spotted at Golden Apple Comics in Los Angeles (see our feature on page 64), got legendary artist Gene Colan to draw his last album cover, 1998's "Hellbilly Deluxe."

Jean-Francois Robert/Outline

JOSS WHEDON

The creator of WB's "Buffy the Vampire Slayer" TV series and its spin-off, "Angel," reads comics like *Planetary*, *The Authority*, *Punisher*, *Preacher*, *Whiteout* and *Rising Stars*. He's currently working on a story for Dark Horse's *Buffy* comics, telling the tale of a slayer 500 years into the future. He considers "Buffy" characters Buffy, Willow, Xander and Giles to be like the Fantastic Four.

James Busbee, Ben Casson, Richard Ho, Seth Jones, James McDonough, Eric Moro, Jake Rossen, Brian Seidman and Jason Wheatley contributed to this story. Know someone famous who reads comics? Or maybe you're famous and love comics? Drop us a line at celebrities@wizardworld.com so we can update our files.

CASTING call

GARTH ENNIS casts the PUNISHER MOVIE!

Kill 'em all!

In the infinite wisdom that WIZARD possesses, we decided to go right to the source when casting the Marvel Knights "Punisher" feature film—writer of the book and noted film buff Garth Ennis himself plays casting director this month!

The outwardly calm and collected Ennis, who is actually a seething cauldron of rage on the inside (as evidenced by his prolific and horrifyingly funny comic work), graciously accepted our invitation, and here's what he came up with. So nuke some popcorn, grab a soda and plop yer butt in the back row. It's movie time, Garth Ennis style!

RUTGER HAUER as
THE PUNISHER

The way I figure it, Frank Castle is about 50 by now, yet he's still an incredibly formidable, dangerous character. Dye his hair black. Hauer ("Blade Runner") still looks tough, as if he could go around causing untold carnage and mayhem and not even bat an eyelid at it.

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

IN THE NBA VIDEO "DOUBLE CLUTCH: THE HOUSTON ROCKETS 1994-95 CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON," THEN-STARTING POWER FORWARD ROBERT HORRY COULD BE SEEN READING *THE AMAZING X-MEN* #2 BY FABIAN NICIEZA AND ANDY KUBERT.

GILLIAN ANDERSON as **MOLLY VON RICHTHOFEN**

You need someone who could wander around being cool and hip, and get away with doing outrageous things. Gillian Anderson ("X-Files") is one of those people who goes around and is always in control.

STEVE DILLON as **DETECTIVE SOAP**

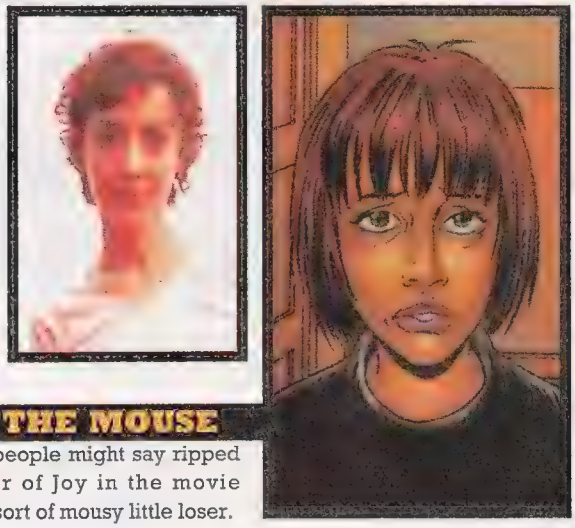
Steve told me he'd based Detective Soap on himself, which, if you ever meet Steve, will come as a bit of a shock. But that would be kind of fun, seeing Steve Dillon wandering around being meek and mild. Personally, I don't think he could do it.

JEREMY DAVIES as **BUD PLUGG**

Who's small enough? What about that little turd from "Saving Private Ryan"? The one who sh--s himself and gets the other guy killed? He plays Corporal Upham, the useless little bastard.

LEONARDO DICAPRIO as **SPACKER DAVE**

This "Titanic" star's kinda scrawny. Really, you could fit in whichever sort of young, pretty-boy actor you loathe the most. Somebody who wouldn't mind having his face filled with about two pounds of metal.



JANE ADAMS as **JOAN THE MOUSE**

Joan is based on—some people might say ripped off from—the character of Joy in the movie "Happiness." Adams is a sort of mousy little loser.

RALPH FIENNES as **ELITE**

You never see Elite's face, but you need someone like Fiennes ("Schindler's List") with a very cultured, Ivy League kind of voice. Someone with a bit of character, who can do arrogant, nasty and unpleasant and make it seem real.

TOBEY MAGUIRE as **THE HOLY**

It'd be fun to see him carving people up. Maguire ("Cider House Rules") doesn't really look like the Holy, but I could see him doing all that terrible, terrible stuff, then having a nervous breakdown afterwards.

SIGOURNEY WEAVER as **MA GNUCCI**

You could go for someone kind of pretty, but incredibly harsh. Get Sigourney Weaver (the "Alien" movie franchise) to just do "mad vicious bitch." I did originally say Ma was supposed to be, underneath it all, quite attractive. It's just that through scowling all the time and naturally being a sharp, vicious person, she kind of buried her looks.

NELSON DECASTRO as **MR. PAYBACK**

Mr. Payback actually came out a lot grungier looking than I expected him to. I could see [comic artist] Nelson machine-gunning people and spouting socialist rhetoric at the same time. That'd be a kind of interesting picture.

QUIET ON THE SET!

STARBURST
Celebrity comics facts from behind the curtain

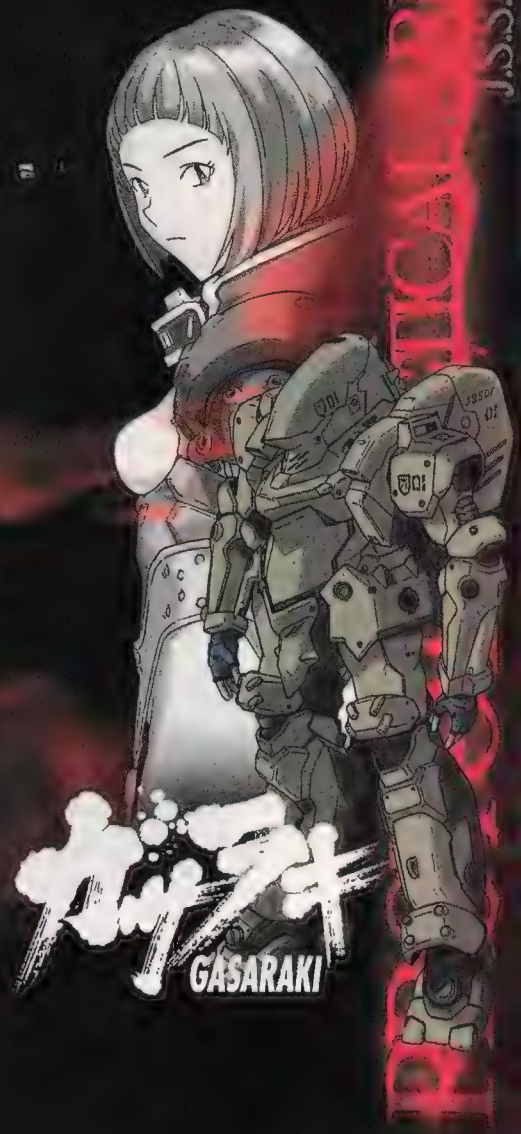
DURING FILMING IN CANADA OF GUS VAN SANT'S "FINDING FORRESTER" (DUE OUT IN DECEMBER OF THIS YEAR), SEAN CONNERY STOPPED INTO A LOCAL COMIC BOOK STORE NEAR THE SET AND BOUGHT AN ISSUE OF GARTH ENNIS AND STEVE DILLON'S *PUNISHER*.

Rutger Hauer, Ralph Fiennes, Jeremy Davies, Tobey Maguire/Everett Collection. Gillian Anderson/©Jeff Slocomb, Leonardo Dicaprio/© Steve Sands, Jane Adams/ © Nathaniel Welch, Sigourney Weaver/©Thomas Lau /Outline. Garth Ennis, Nelson Decastro/Paul Gobinelli. Steve Dillon/ Steve Dillon

The Summoning Has Begun . . .

GET READY FOR AN ALL-OUT ASSAULT ON THE SENSES as the key creative talents behind *Gundam Wing and Bubblegum Crisis* join forces with the producers of the *Mobile Suit Gundam* saga for the ultimate animated epic! The flames of war explode in the Middle East as two shadow forces unleash monstrous new weapons of mass destruction! But in a world where giant robots are real, the most dangerous weapon of all lies buried within a human mind. Yushiro, the fourth son of the mysterious and powerful Gowa family, finds himself at the center of events that will change the future of mankind forever! Nothing can prepare the human race for what is about to be unleashed in *GASARAKI!*

"Recommended for those mecha fans that cannot get enough." EX online



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COOL [illegible] STUFF ON THE INTERNET

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN!

WEB SIGHT Spidey movie fever hits the internet.

'Spider-Man' movie gets fans Web-swinging

Get ready for ol' Webhead to take over the Web. With Sam Raimi and Sony Pictures gearing up to finally make the Spider-Man movie a reality, fans are flocking to their computers to find out the latest news of their favorite web-spinner.

Sony has yet to announce a date for the unleashing of the official Spidey Website, and so far has only promised that it will be, *ahem*, "Amazing." The first site out of the gate with the most intense coverage and news concerning the Spider-Man movie so far has been **www.SpidermanHype.com**.

The site offers a countdown to the estimated release of the movie (hey, only 432 days, 18 hours, seven minutes and 13 seconds left!), news and rumors on the cast, Spider-Man downloads and fan opinions on important matters relating to Spidey. The site, with a crew of eight people working on it from California to Holland, averages close to one million hits a month. Niels Bourgonje, editor of the site, attributes the success to all the Spider-Man fans frothing at the mouth for a movie about their favorite character to finally come out.

"A motion picture based on the Spider-Man comic books has been the dream of fans all over the world for decades and now that it's finally going to happen, fans are really interested to know about the developments and rumors surrounding the movie," Bourgonje says. "We are happy to fill that gap."

SpidermanHype.com even snared Stan "The Man" Lee, co-creator of Spider-Man, to stop by for an official online chat. Bourgonje also says that representatives from Sony surf the site as well.

However, SpidermanHype.com isn't the only site to dedicate itself to the Spider-Man movie. Also up and running is **www.countingdown.com/spiderman**. The site has reported that it is in preparations to beef itself up since the X-Men movie has been released.

So far, the comparison of the two sites would be like comparing Spider-Man to Spider-Ham. Rarely are there updates at this site, and odds are most Spidey fans wouldn't waste a spider-tracer bookmarking it. But countingdown.com did a good job covering the "X-Men" movie, so it might be worthwhile to check it out down the road.

All in all, Spider-Man might just give a new meaning to the word "webmaster." With the success of the "X-Men" movie and its Websites, the future driving tool to promoting movies might just be the Internet.

"We think the Internet will soon be the main source for a studio to promote their movies, more so than in theaters and TV," says Bourgonje. "The technology will allow them to make more superior sites than past movies' sites. Just look at what Macromedia Flash 4.0 did for the X-Men site!"

"Mark my words, we ain't seen nothing yet." — SETH JONES

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WILL SMITH HAS BEEN ATTACHED TO MULTIPLE COMIC-BASED PROJECTS, STARRING IN 1997'S SMASH HIT "MEN IN BLACK" BASED ON THE DARK HORSE COMIC AND ALSO COLLABORATING WITH ROB LIEFELD ON A FILM CALLED "THE MARK." HOWEVER, THE LATTER FILM HAS YET TO BE PRODUCED.

SURFREPORT

CREATORS' FAVORITE SITES

"There's a Harley-Davidson site, where a lot of stupid questions I have are already answered, so I don't have to look stupid myself. I go to all the comic sites, especially Comicon. I look around eBay, see what's on there. Most of the time, I click on my name and see what's around."

–ADAM KUBERT, brother of Andy, son of Joe and artist on Ultimate X-Men

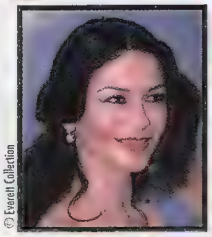
www.milwaukeeharley.com/
www.comicon.com/
www.ebay.com/

SURVEYSAYS...

ONLINE QUESTION OF THE MONTH

WHICH CELEBRITY IN A COMIC BOOK-BASED MOVIE WOULD YOU BE MOST EXCITED TO SEE?

a. Catherine Zeta-Jones as Wonder Woman 27%
b. Matt Damon as Daredevil 24%
c. Bruce Campbell as Superman 20%
d. Johnny Depp as Ghost Rider 16%
e. Tom Cruise as Iron Man 13%



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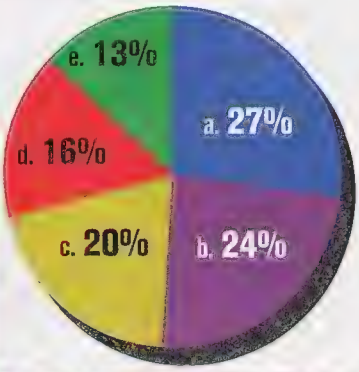
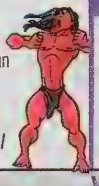


To get in on the next Online Poll, head on over to wizardworld.com and cast your vote.

ONLINEDATEBOOK

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

FRI SEPT 1 — **BIRTHDAY:** Tarzan boy Edgar Rice Burroughs. 1875. For a comprehensive article on Tarzan comics, check out http://www.geocities.com/Hollywood/Hills/6569/tarzan/

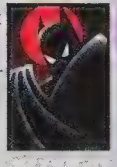


SAT 2 — **490 BC:** Athenian runner makes his run to Sparta. Read an interview with Frank Miller about *300* at http://www.atomiccomics.com/miller3002.htm

SUN 3 — **1777:** The Stars and Stripes flies in battle for the first time. Visit Cap at http://www.sigma.net/capt_am/

MON 4 — **1781:** L.A. founded by Spanish explorers. Para un Website en comics en español, va a http://edison.ucting.udg.mx/tusideas/ladis/

TUES 5 — **1992:** First animated Batman episode airs. For more info on "Batman: The Animated Series," check out http://www.batmantas.com/



WED 6 — **2000:** *Ultimate Spider-Man* in stores today! Yay! Visit this cool fansite: http://www.geocities.com/Area51/Vault/2053/peterparker.html

THURS 7 — **Labor Day** **1930:** "Blondie" comic strip debuts. Visit Dagwood and family at http://www.blondie.com/

FRI 8 — **1973:** The "Superfriends" cartoon debuts! Catch a devoted fan's tribute at http://community-2.webtv.net/rlgordon/ROBSSUPERFRIENDSFAN/

SAT 9 — **BIRTHDAY:** Michael Keaton, 1951. Check out http://www.angelfire.com/tn/keatonsbatman/index.html

SUN 10 — **1935:** "Popeye" radio show premieres. Join the official Popeye fan club at http://www.midwest.net/orgs/ace1/

MON 11 — **1875:** First comic strip in a newspaper. To see some of your fave strips online, go to http://www.unitedmedia.com/comics/

TUES 12 — **1970:** "Josie and the Pussycats" debuts. For a list of other Hanna-Barbera shows, see http://www.powerup.com.au/~ves/hbshows.htm

WED 13 — **1993:** The home version of the *Mortal Kombat* game goes on sale. The legacy lives on at http://www.mortalkombat.com

THURS 14 — **1959:** The Soviet *Lunik II* becomes the first man-made object to touch the moon and visit the JLA. Try http://www.geocities.com/area51/Rampart/3931

FRI 15 — **1928:** Alexander Fleming discovers the healing properties of penicillin. For more on *Wolvie's* healing powers and more, visit: http://www.smartlink.net/~falcon/comics/wolverine_main.html

SAT 16 — **BIRTHDAY:** Magic man David Copperfield, 1956. For another magic man, the mystical Dr. Strange, check out http://www.doc-strange.com

Batman: The Animated Series: © Fox Broadcasting Company; Captain America: © Marvel Entertainment; Josie and the Pussycats: Cartoon Network; Michael Keaton: © Warner Bros.; Mortal Kombat: © MIDWAY; Popeye © King Features Syndicate; Superfriends: Hanna-Barbera Productions; Tarzan: © Disney

INSEARCHOF...

THE COOLEST AND WACKIEST SITES ON THE WEB

EPISODE II TRAILER?
http://www.theforce.net/theater/trailers/episodeii/index.shtml
It may not be the real deal, but whoever put this mock trailer together did a good job in raising some excitement over the movie.

TONS OF MANGA INFO?
http://www.geocities.com/Tokyo/Ginza/4996/index.html
One of the most comprehensive manga resources on the Web—it's even got cool manga backdrops to use as wallpaper!

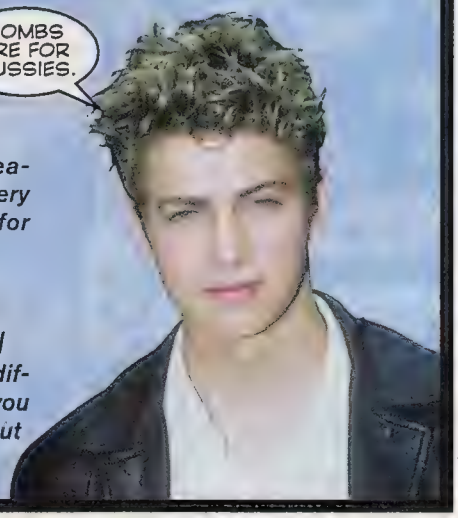
THE POWER PACK?
www.zebra.net/~webcel/powerpack/pilot.html
Check out info on the never-aired pilot for the Power Pack movie, based on those three li'l superbrats.

CELEBRITY E-MAIL?
http://www.celebrityemail.com/
Just send an e-mail to this site, follow the categories and they'll forward your letter on to the appropriate parties. No stalkers please.

AVENGERS COMICS?
www.crosswinds.net/~drspectrum/covers.html
An awesome Website that features full cover galleries of every issue with brief credit stats for each one.

FOREIGN LANGUAGES?
http://www.travlang.com/languages/
Didja know there are over 70 different ways to say, "Where do you keep the midgets?" Check it out at this here neat site.

STUPID NEWS?
http://members.aol.com/JAC070/wackynewz1.index.html
Some people should really not get out of bed in the morning. They'd be better off.



© Fox Television

ONLINE DATEBOOK CONT.

MARK YOUR CALENDERS

SUN SEPT 17 — **BIRTHDAY:** "Shoe" creator Jeff MacNelly, 1947. For more on his legacy, log on to **http://www.macnelly.com**

MON 18 — **1851:** *The New York Times* is first published by Henry Raymond. Visit another famous newspaper at **http://dailyplanet.iwarp.com**

TUES 19 — **BIRTHDAY:** Bat sensation Adam West, 1929. Experience all that is Adam West at **http://www.adamwest.com/**

WED 20 — **1973:** Billie Jean King beats Bobby Riggs in the "Battle of the Sexes" tennis match. For more on girl power and the women of DC comics, visit **http://www3.sympatico.ca/isabelle.stephen/**

THURS 21 — **BIRTHDAY:** Cartoony Chuck Jones, 1912. Visit his official site at **http://www.chuck-jones.com**

FRI 22 — **1776:** Patriot Nathan Hale is executed as a spy by the British. For another Patriot, see **http://risingstarsr.tripod.com/**

SAT 23 — **1962:** "The Jetsons" premieres on ABC as the first color show aired by the network. Get yer fix at **http://www.cybercomm.nl/~ivo/?**

SUN 24 — **BIRTHDAY:** Muppeteer Jim Henson, 1936. Tell Kermit we said hi at **http://www.muppet-world.com/**

MON 25 — **BIRTHDAY:** Super man Christopher Reeve, 1952. For a great site on "Superman: The Movie," log on to **http://www.fortress-of-solitude.net/themovie**

TUES 26 — **BIRTHDAY:** Killer whale Shamu, 1985. For a neat look at Michael Turner's creatures of the sea, go to **http://www.fathomcom.com/**

WED 27 — **1964:** Warren Commission concludes that Oswald worked alone to kill JFK. Visit a fanpage of a hero who likes to work alone at **http://www.manwithoutfear.com/daredevil.shtml**

THURS 28 — **BIRTHDAY:** Mystery girl Janeane Garofalo, 1964. Impress her with your knowledge of all that is Preacher at **http://www.maloca.com/preacher.htm**

FRI 29 — **1993:** Hasbro announces plans for a Gen. Colin Powell action figure. March on over to see a few good men at **http://www.geocities.com/TelevisionCity/Set/1577/**

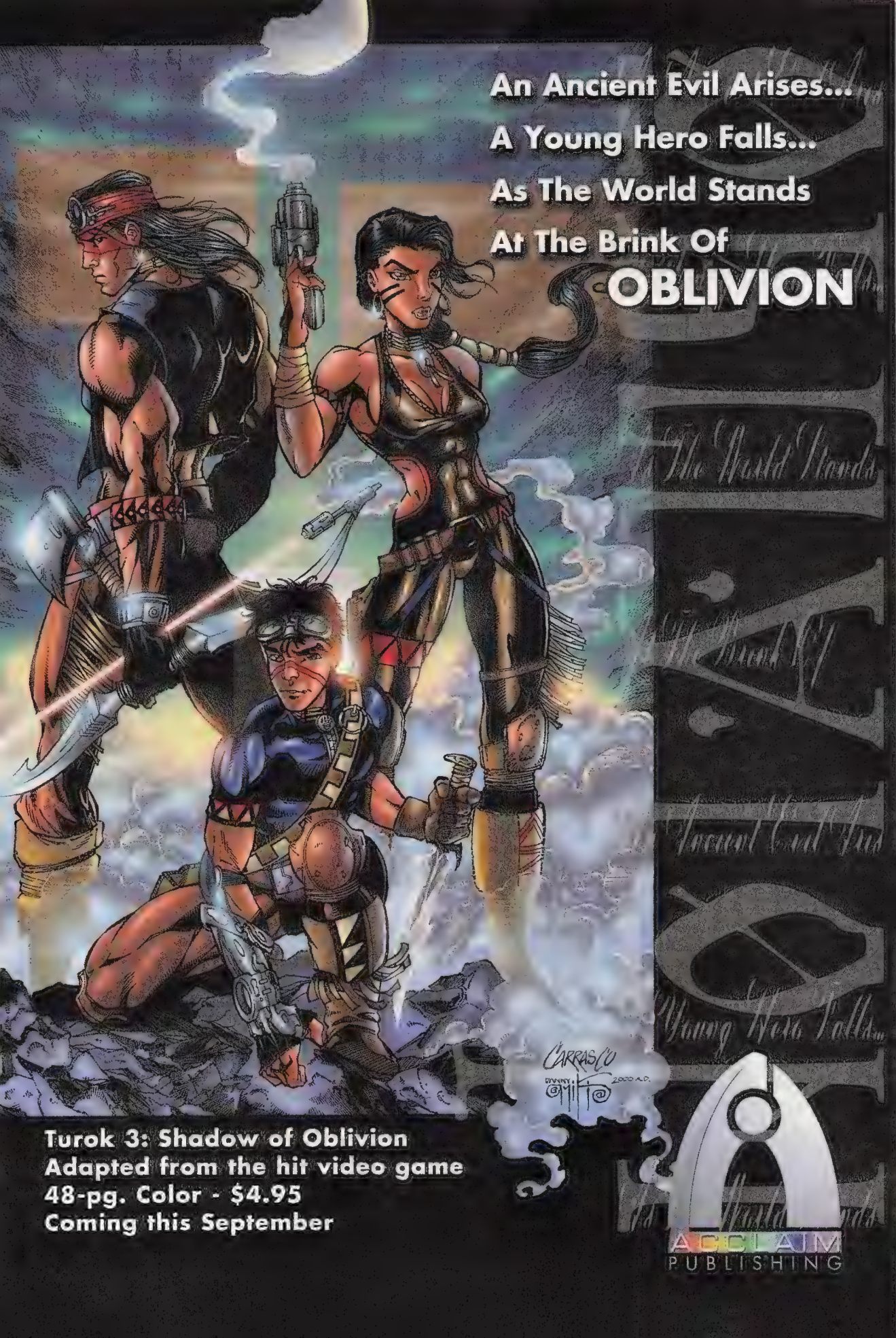
SAT 30 — **1935:** The Dick Tracy radio show premieres. **http://www.comicspage.com/dicktracy/index.html**

Gotta favorite comics site you'd like to see us cover? E-mail us at dotcomics@wizardworld.com

Christopher Reeves: © Warner Bros.; Dick Tracy © Chicago Tribune; Jetsons, Cartoon Network; Kermit: Foto Fantasies; Patriot: © Top Cow; Tom & Jerry: © ABC TV

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

ACTION STAR JACKIE CHAN STATED THAT HE WOULD LOVE TO SEE DRAGON BALL Z MADE INTO A LIVE-ACTION MOVIE. CHAN HAS READ THE DRAGON BALL Z COMICS AND WATCHED THE CARTOONS, CALLING GOKU HIS FAVORITE CHARACTER.


An Ancient Evil Arises...
A Young Hero Falls...
As The World Stands
At The Brink Of
OBLIVION
CARRASCO
2000 A.D.
Turok 3: Shadow of Oblivion
Adapted from the hit video game
48-pg. Color - $4.95
Coming this September
ACCLAIM
PUBLISHING

video game STUFF

SANTA'S LIST

Here's what to ask for... make sure you're good

The holidays grind on you. We all know it. All that shopping, all that running around, all that food. Mmm...food...

Where was I? Right, holidays. Anyway, shopping for a gamer can be particularly tough, and the addition of a new system into the mix this Christmas isn't going to make things any easier. So in the giving spirit of the holiday season, we here at WIZARD have undertaken compiling a list of the hottest, most eagerly anticipated titles of the coming months. Use as a handy resource—or even as the perfect checklist to present to your loved ones.

And now, the nominees, in no particular order:

FEAR EFFECT: RETRO HELIX—Raising the bar for sheer sexiness this holiday season for the PlayStation, *Retro Helix* is the sequel to last year's surprising hit from Eidos. Expect to see even more high-quality computer-rendered environments, as well as the return of all three major characters from the previous game, plus the addition of the lovely Rain, who's said to enjoy a particularly, ah, close relationship with *FE* heroine Hana. (**Winter 2000**)

HAVE NO FEAR The lady with the big guns is here.

FINAL FANTASY IX—Square prepares for another blockbuster for the PlayStation, but don't expect simply more of the same. Square heads back to its FF roots with a return to the cutesy, "super-deformed" anime style, the revival of the Job class and a less technological setting. (**Late 2000**)

NABOO, NABOO! Episode 1 is coming to the PS2.

STAR WARS: DEMOLITION—Star Wars meets *Twisted Metal*? It's no joke! Engage in vehicular combat with your favorite Star Wars ground-based craft in this quirky development from LucasArts for the PlayStation. You'll pilot land speeders, snow speeders, Bespin cloud skimmers, Boba Fett (yep, just Boba Fett—hey, he's got a jetpack!) and even the Rancor Monster! (**November**)

STAR TREK: INVASION—From Activision, *Invasion* puts players at the controls of the Federation's little-seen fighter craft as you fight against an entirely new alien menace called the Kem-Jah'tae. What's more, the game, which is for the PlayStation, will feature the voices of Michael Dorn and Patrick Stewart. Make it so! (**September**)

Game Controllers: Paul Schiraldi

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

IN THEIR WIDELY POPULAR, TRENDSETTING TRACK "RAPPER'S DELIGHT," THE SUGAR HILL GANG SING: "I GO BY THE NAME OF LOIS LANE/ AND YOU COULD BE MY BOYFRIEND YOU SURELY CAN/JUST LET ME QUIT MY BOYFRIEND CALLED SUPERMAN."

PARASITE EVE II—The sequel to Square's spooky RPG hits shelves, sporting a number of refinements, including the return of sultry cop Aya Brea as she hunts down mutated creatures in the American West. You'll find a faster, more refined battle system, lots more locations, more vivid and varied backgrounds and a more heightened overall spookiness. (**September**)

STAR WARS: EPISODE I–STARFIGHTER—LucasArts' first PlayStation2 offering puts you in the flight suit of a no-name Naboo fighter pilot as you strive to fend off the forces of the Trade Federation on and above Naboo. Expect gameplay along the lines of *Colony Wars*, with about 60 percent of the game taking place within the planet's atmosphere. (**Winter 2000**)

LEGEND OF ZELDA: MAJORA'S MASK—At last, the sequel to *Legend of Zelda: Ocarina of Time* stands before us for the Nintendo 64. Link plunges into a parallel dimension in search of his stolen pony. This time, the Mask-trading mini-game of the previous title takes center stage, imparting on the wearer entirely new attributes and abilities. (**November**)

TUROK 3: SHADOWS OF OBLIVION—In a departure from the lukewarm *Turok: Rage Wars*, Acclaim focuses on the single-player story in the sequel for the Nintendo 64, offering a fleshed-out, dino-huntin' plot with over 40 minutes of cinematics. The game even includes one unique mode in which a player's weapons are upgraded only upon their death. (**September**)

QUAKE III ARENA—At last, the promised Dreamcast version of the white-hot Sega game is on its way! All the gorgeous graphics and innovative multiplayer gameplay of the PC version are here, as well as (drum roll, please) honest-to-God Internet play via SegaNet (as well as two-player split screen for those without Internet service). (**September**)

BATMAN: TOTAL CHAOS—And if you like your games pocket-sized, here's one for the Game Boy Color. This side-scrolling adventure from Ubi Soft has players slugging it out through the streets of Gotham City, and even allows players to pilot the Batmobile or Batcycle with as much speed as your little GBC can handle. (**October**)

POKÉMON GOLD and **SILVER**—Let the next Pokéwave begin with Nintendo's releases for the Game Boy Color. The addition of day and night cycles will make catching 'em all even more challenging, but you'll be aided by the addition of a PDA-style Pokégear containing a clock, address book and a cell phone for contacting other Pokétrainers ! (**September**)

Ugia. Man Goons in any form just ain't pretty.

So there you have it, diligent holiday shoppers! Pick any item from this lineup and you'll be sure to please any gamer on your shopping list. Just be sure that the person you're buying for actually owns the proper game system for playing these fine titles—yeah, we're talking to you, Grandma. Happy Holidays!

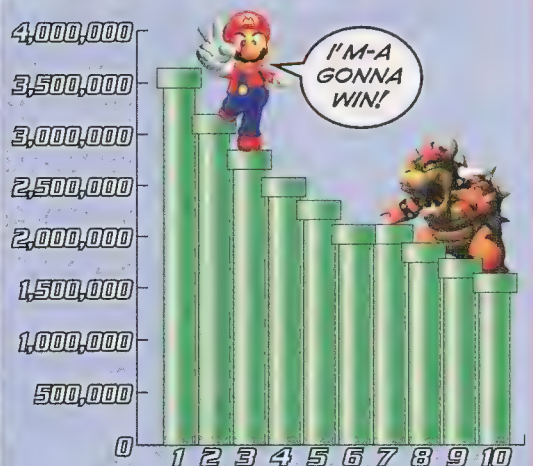
■ **JERRY DORSEY**

Sega will have you Quakin' in your Keds!

KINGOFTHEHILL

Hunting the video game bargain bins this holiday season? We've got you covered there, too! Check out this list of the best-selling video games of the past three years which usually wind up in those bins, courtesy of the market research group NPD's TRSTS Video Games database. Some of the entries might surprise you! ■ **JD**

BEST SELLING GAMES, 1997 THROUGH APRIL 2000



1. GoldenEye 007 – N64 – 3,603,196
2. Mario Kart 64 – N64 – 3,163,847
3. Super Mario 64 – N64 – 2,821,361
4. Zelda: Ocarina of Time – N64 – 2,515,966
5. Gran Turismo – PSX – 2,345,283
6. Crash Bandicoot 2 – PSX – 2,068,751
7. Diddy Kong Racing – N64 – 2,068,751
8. Frogger – PSX – 1,924,766
9. Crash Bandicoot: Warped – PSX – 1,766,020
10. Spyro the Dragon – PSX – 1,636,685

N64 AND BEYOND!

The Dark Knight returns–Pixelized!

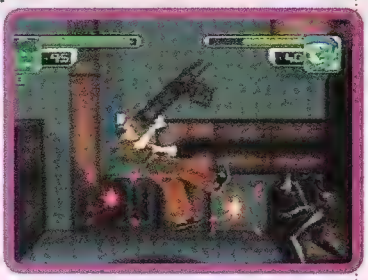
Pow! Bam! Boof! Believe it or not, these words describe the new *Batman Beyond: Return of the Joker* game for the N64 better than the campy 1960s TV show.

Kemco's latest 64-bit entry plunges today's darkest animated hero into some old-school *Streets of Rage* action. Based on this fall's animated movie being released on video, *Return of the Joker* requires the new-generation Batman to use his fists, wings, nunchucks and bo staffs of fury against the Joker and his futuristic lackeys, the Jokerz.

For all you old-school gamers, you might remember the incredible NES/Sunsoft game with the similar name, *Batman: Return of the Joker*. Considered to be one of the best graphical efforts of that era, we can only hope Kemco keeps the standard set by this title, as well as Konami's *Batman Returns* and *The Adventures of Batman and Robin* for the SNES.

Be there this October, same Bat-time, same Bat-Nintendo!

■ MIKEY BENCIC



FLIPPER, IT AIN'T

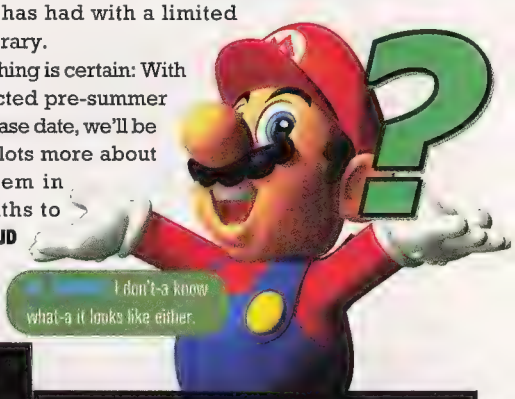
Time to go swimming with Dolphin!

With the mainstream media obsessing about the upcoming battle between the PlayStation2 and Microsoft's X-Box, little attention has been paid to Nintendo's new project humming along quietly behind the scenes.

Code-named the Dolphin (so far the only hint of a final name has been Nintendo's trademark registration of the improbable Star Cube), the machine exists so far only on paper. But we do know that it's expected to boast processing power nearly twice that of the PlayStation2, that it will include a DVD-ROM drive—though Nintendo claims the system will not play DVD movies—and that it will be the new home of the key Mario, Zelda and Pokémon franchises.

Little else has been solidified so far, but in the time before the system's official unveiling, the big N has been making a concerted effort to seal exclusive deals with several top-shelf development groups, including Silicon Knights, co-creators of PlayStation's *Legacy of Kain* franchise, which should help alleviate the problems the N64 has had with a limited game library.

One thing is certain: With an expected pre-summer 2001 release date, we'll be hearing lots more about the system in the months to come. ■ JD



THIS MONTH'S CAN'T-MISS HIT

ON TARGET

One of the most intriguing titles expected at the release of the PlayStation2 is Sony's unique *Dark Cloud*. The game follows the adventure of young Toran as he strives to free the souls of his countrymen imprisoned in a vast underworld.

That may sound pretty standard, but get this: In order to lure his fellow men back to the land of the living, Toran must reconstruct their destroyed village. This makes the game something like a *SimCity* RPG, with an interface for placing houses, shops, rivers, ponds and trees wherever your heart desires. What's most enthralling is that the PS2's power allows for instant, seamless transitions between a God's-eye view and a standard third-person adventure cam. So as soon as you make a change to the landscape, you can swoop down and check it out from Toran's perspective.

Of course, the title offers plenty more: *Dark Cloud* also includes a healthy amount of world and dungeon exploration, both of which fully exploit the PS2's processing power. Enormous caverns and sweeping outdoor vistas convey an impressive sense of scale, and overall the game is simply gorgeous. This may turn out to be the start of a beloved new franchise when it's released in October. ■ JD

AFRAID OF THE DARK? Toran and friends ain't.

Drop us an e-mail at
videostuff@wizardworld.com

STAR BURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

BILLY ZANE ("TITANIC") STARRED AS THE PURPLE-SUITED PHANTOM IN THE FILM ADAPTATION OF THE COMIC SERIES. ZANE ACTUALLY PICKED UP AN ISSUE OF *THE PHANTOM* IN AUSTRALIA IN 1987 AND BECAME HOOKED: "[I THOUGHT] HE WAS THE END-ALL IN TERMS OF ROLE MODELS AND SUPERHEROES."

An RPG as Vast as Legend Itself.

"...one of the biggest RPGs ever."
— IGN.PC

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Encounter over 100 NPCs, battle 350 different characters and creatures, wield weapons and cast over 100 magic spells.

Create a party of six adventurers from 15 different professions. Utilize 300 inventory items, including customizable pieces.

Embark on over 100 quests in 200 hours of gameplay, battling in real-time and turn-based combat.

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From the Creator of
WIZARDRY® V, VI, AND VII,
D.W. BRADLEY

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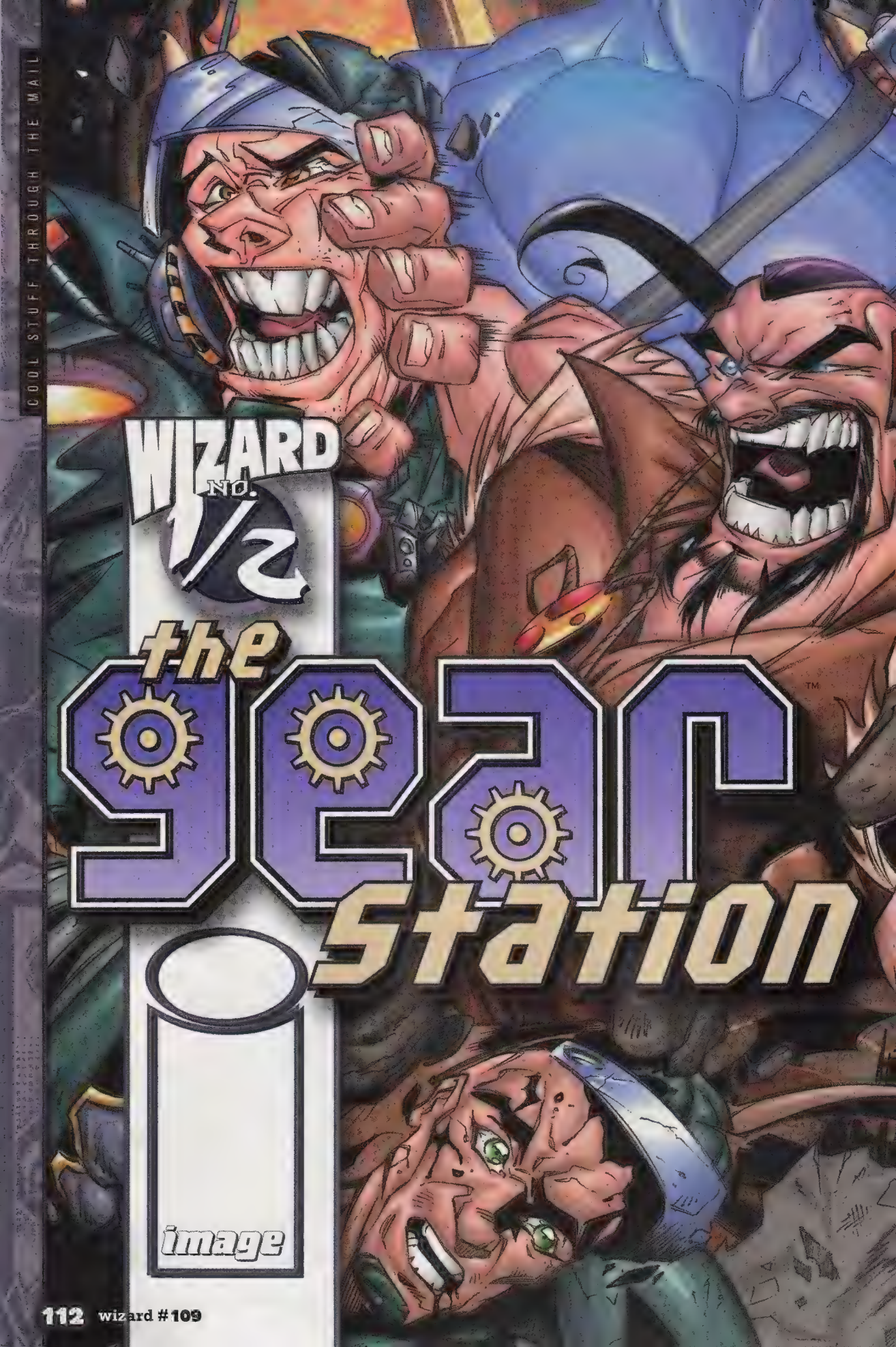
WIZARD
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gear
station
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GEAR STATION #1/2 OFFER

"GEAR STATION HAS HIT AND HIT BIG!" —WIZARD

Wanna know what the world of *Gear Station* looked like 25 years before the series begins? In this exclusive offer, you can! This epic tale takes you back in time to the wonders of Domain City...and where the seeds of evil have been planted. See the rise and fall of the now outlawed ways of magic in this fun fantasy story with state-of-the-art computer art. So, join us and go back in time! Send in your coupon and enclosed $3 mail it in and enjoy the ride.

If you don't buy this, you're wack! Once this offer expires, it's outie!

- **Story and cover by creator Dan Fraga**
- **Super-limited!**

Fill out the coupon!
Now! Don't delay!

STATION BREAK

No reproductions of this coupon will be accepted. This coupon must be sent in the accompanying envelope. You may put additional coupons in the same envelope. Remember kids, "Fraga" is pronounced like "Sega." Remit by check or money order only. Canadian orders remit $4 per copy, other foreign orders remit $6 per copy. All payment must be in U.S. funds drawn on a U.S. bank. Make all checks payable to Wizard Entertainment. Offer good only while supply lasts. Dude, you know that when a "Gear Station" movie gets made, this book'll explode in value. Please allow eight to 12 weeks from date of expiration for delivery. Changes of address will not be forwarded unless Wizard Entertainment is notified in writing by November 24, 2000.

THIS OFFER EXPIRES NOVEMBER 24, 2000

stuff

COMIC BOOK MERCHANDISE YOU CAN BUY...

By Dan DiGiacomo and Mike Cotton

AVAILABLE AT YOUR LOCAL COMICS RETAIL

Who among us doesn't like stuff? Whether it's Fathom's String Bikini, She-Hulk's Barbell Set or Black Canary's Throat Lozenges, we're all suckers for comic-related merchandise. Each month, WIZARD strives to show you the latest and super-coolest in comic book statues, posters, pins, magnets, shirts and other goodies. In short, if it's cool and it's stuff, you'll find it here, but you can only get it at your local comic book store.

TITANIC TEENS

Toy collectors eager to complete their set of Teen Titans will be ecstatic to learn that DC Direct has Raven and Cyborg figures slated for release in February 2001. Raven comes equipped with a smoky base, while Cyborg will feature interchangeable hands.

In other DC news, a three-figure assortment dubbed Amazons and Adversaries, featuring Wonder Woman characters Artemis, Ares and Cheetah, is scheduled to ship next spring, along with a deluxe two-pack featuring Aquaman (atop a seahorse) and Aqualad (riding a wave).

TEEN SCENE Maybe Cyborg and Raven wanna hang at the mall later.

SPECIAL OFFERINGS

Lunch boxes ain't just for kids anymore. Straight from Dynamic Forces comes a brand-new *Rising Stars* lunch box. One of the most widely-read series out there today, Top Cow's *Rising Stars* makes one dynamic lunch box. This bad boy's good for just about anything, whether it's carrying supplies, lunches or just for showing off, this $19.95 lunch box does the job. The "Specials" may rule the world but you can rule the lunchroom. And if lunch ain't your thing, try hanging some "Specials" on your walls. Acclaimed *Watchmen* artist Dave Gibbons turns out a huge lithograph of all the favorites from *Rising Stars*. Printed on 80-pound Gallerie Silk paper for Dynamic Forces, this litho's a steal at $19.95 and an even better deal with Gibbon's signature all the way from the UK for only $49.95.

LUNCH SPECIALS If ya's don't wanna hang 'em up, you can take the Specials from *Rising Stars* to lunch.

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

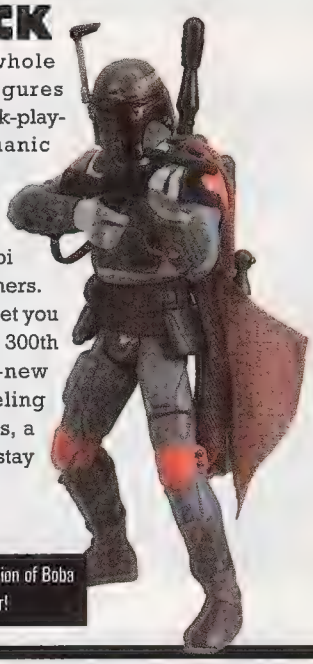
TERI HATCHER, WHO PLAYED THE FIERCELY INDEPENDENT LOIS LANE IN TV'S "LOIS & CLARK: THE NEW ADVENTURES OF SUPERMAN," BECAME ONE OF THE MOST DOWNLOADED WOMEN IN INTERNET HISTORY WITH A PHOTO OF HER WRAPPED IN NOTHING BUT A SUPERMAN LOGO.

HOTSTUFF!!!

stuff

STAR STRUCK

Hasbro's readying a whole slew of new Star Wars figures for this fall, including Dejarik-playing Chewbacca, Mechanic Anakin, Shmi Skywalker, Mas Amedda, a Blue Naboo Guard and new versions of Boss Nass, Obi-Wan Kenobi and Jar Jar Binks, among others. And if that's not enough to get you excited, then check out the 300th Star Wars figure—an all-new Boba Fett! He's got swiveling arms, a cloth cape, and yes, a rocket-firing backpack, so stay away if you're under 3.



NO SMALL FETT A bitchin' new version of Boba Fett is the 300th Star Wars figure ever!

DARK KNIGHT 101

If you've ever wanted to get a complete grip on the Dark Knight, Chronicle Books gives you a chance this September. The Batman Masterpiece Edition gives fans a plethora of Batman lore in a commemorative edition, including a high-quality replica of *Batman* #1 from 1940, a full-color hardcover book and an exclusive, fully articulate nine-inch action figure (designed by Alex Ross!), complete with a wired and bendable cape, removable Batarang and utility belt. *Batman: The Golden Age*, the book included with the $65 set, recounts Batman's early years with behind the scenes facts as well as a gallery of his greatest villains.

BAT TO SCHOOL Learn the Dark Knight's entire history in the this deluxe book from Chronicle.

WINGIN' IT

Bandai's keeping the heat on "Gundam Wing," the hit Cartoon Network animated series, with a second wave of Gundam action figures. Look for Deluxe Altron Gundam, Deluxe Deathscythe Hell, Deluxe Gundam Wing, Ground Leo and Space Leo, along with a 12-inch Wing Gundam late this year.

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

HARD-CORE RAP AND COMICS HAVE PROVEN TO BE A SUCCESSFUL MATCH. THE BANDS INSANE CLOWN POSSE AND WU-TANG CLAN HAVE BOTH HAD COMICS BASED ON THEIR EXPLOITS. NEITHER COMIC IS BIOGRAPHICAL; THEY JUST TAKE THE MUSICANS AND PUT THEM IN FANTASTIC SETTINGS.

WHERE DO GODS GO WHEN THEY DIE?
JLA
Heaven's Ladder
A spectacular, oversized graphic novel
by Mark Waid, Bryan Hitch, and Paul Neary
Redefining power this September
THE ORIGINAL UNIVERSE
DC COMICS
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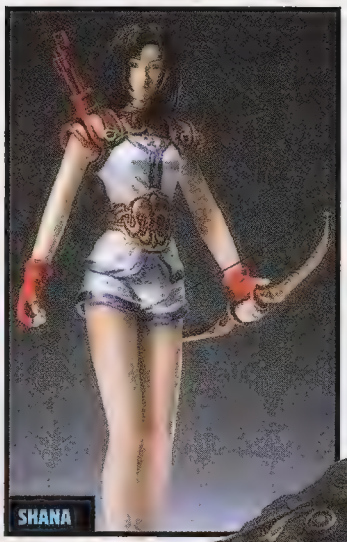
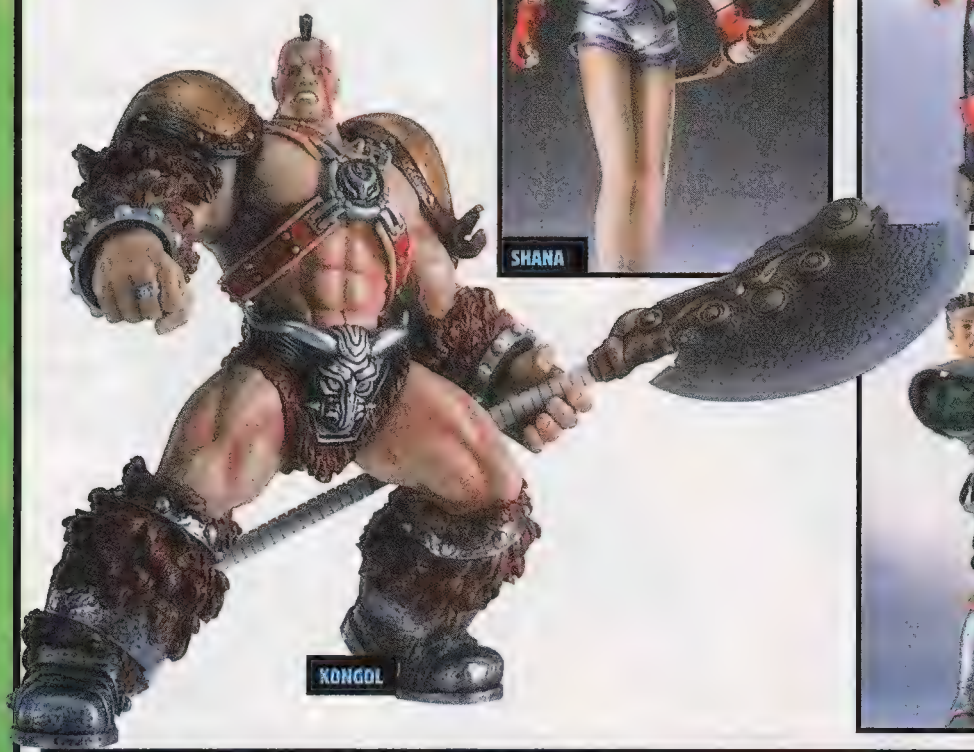
Call 1-888-COMIC BOOK for your nearest comics shop.

WHAT A DRAGOON

Expect figures based on Sony's top-selling RPG, *Legend of Dragoon*, to burst onto toy store shelves later this year, thanks to relative newcomer BBI. All six figures—Dart, Shana, Lavitz, Lloyd, Kongol and Rose—will stand roughly 7 inches tall and sport full articulation.





MAGE: THE HERO PVCED

In a reunion few thought they'd ever see, the original cast from Matt Wagner's *Mage* reunites with Mage: Hero Discovered PVC set. This series from Graphitti Designs and based on work by Wagner includes Kevin Matchstick, Edsel, Sean Knight, Mirth, Leanhaun Sidhe, Grackleflint and Red-Cap, all packaged together in a full-color window box. Each figure stands approximately four inches tall expect for Red-Cap. These hot figures will be available in November for only $35.95.

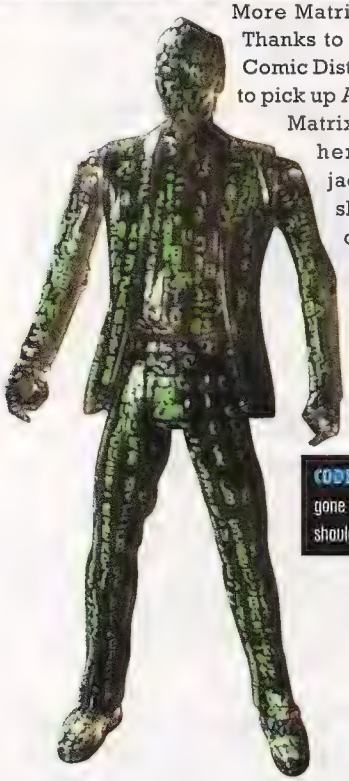
HERO WORSHIP The Mage PVC set will be all the rage come November.

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WALTER KOENIG (CHEKOV ON THE ORIGINAL "STAR TREK") WROTE THREE ISSUES OF A COMIC CALLED *RAVER*, PUBLISHED BY THE NOW-DEFUNCT MALIBU COMICS. HE ALSO CO-STARRED ON THE TV SERIES "BABYLON 5," CREATED BY *RISING STARS* SCRIBE J. MICHAEL STRACZYNSKI.

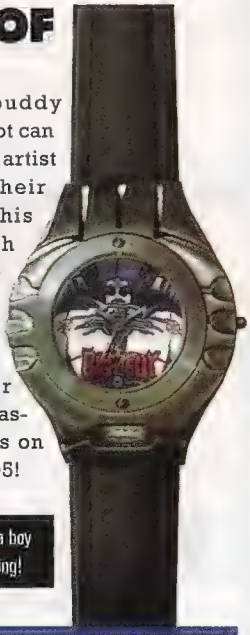
THERE IS NO SPOON



More Matrix figures are coming! Thanks to N2 Toys and Diamond Comic Distributors, you'll be able to pick up Agent Smith (done up in Matrix code) and Trinity (in her trademark leather jacket) this fall in comic shops everywhere. Also on the way are 12-inch versions of Neo and Morpheus, decked out in karate gear and complete with dojo accessories!

CODE BREAKER Agent Smith done gone and picked up a virus. Penicillin should clear that right up...

RUSTY-PROOF WATCH



Everybody needs a buddy and now, Rusty the Boy Robot can be yours. Dark Horse and artist Geof Darrow follow up their Big Guy watch with this striking and stylish watch featuring everyone's favorite boy robot, Rusty. This series is limited to 1,000 pieces and each time piece has its limited-edition number etched into the back of its casing. Rusty can be all yours on November 15 for only $14.95!

ROBOT WRISTWATCH Don't own a boy robot? This watch is the next best thing!

Check your local stores for availability of all these funky-fresh products. Or ask your friendly neighborhood comic store to special order 'em for ya!

YO! Are you a company who sells stuff cool enough to make the grade here? Let us be the judges of that. Send any info and/or samples to:

Stuff for "Stuff"
c/o Wizard Entertainment
151 Wells Avenue
Congers, NY 10920-2064

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manga MANIA!

COOL JAPANESE COMIC AND ANIMATION NEWS YOU NEED TO KNOW...

THE NEXT WAVE

What'll be the next 'Pokémon'-style hit to come out of Japan?

Brace yourself for company, Pikachu. The wave of Japanese entertainment properties invading America continues to gain momentum, and more of your friends from Japan are about to hit our shores.

There's still a gold mine of properties that haven't crossed the Pacific—and WIZARD's gonna give you the inside scoop on the hottest properties you've never seen. Who knows? One of these might be the next Gundam.

So read on, and remember—you heard it here first.

FLAME OF RECCA You can't get more hardcore than a ninja with a flaming hand.

This anime series follows a boy named Recca who travels 400 years into the future on a mission for his mother. A descendant of the Hokage Ninja Flame masters, Recca obsesses with ninjas and constantly trains to become one.

Oh, and he just happens to shoot fire from his right hand. He uses this elemental flame to whup ass in a tournament—where he eventually confronts the bad guy, his half-brother Kurei—and to protect his lady (his *hime* or princess). And there's also plenty of laughs mixed in to go with the mortal combat.

GENERATOR GAWL Monsters! Time travel! High school angst! This popular science-fiction anime has it all.

Three students, Ryo, Kouji, and Goul, have just transferred to Ohju Gakuen, a special high school for gifted youngsters. The catch? The three are actually from the future—they've been sent back in time to investigate a mysterious organization called Kuvele, which conducts superhuman experiments on the student body. When super-powerful monsters called Generators attack the school, you can be sure that stuff gets broken.

SHIN GETTER ROBO Nothing beats an old-fashioned knock-down fight between two big-ass robots.

Based on the two previous "Getter Robo" series from the '70s, "Shin Getter Robo" is both a tribute and a throwback to classic mecha anime—the familiar subgenre of anime that features powerful robots piloted by humans. Like any good mecha anime, it features gigantic robots beating the crap out of each other, with aliens and emotional turmoil to boot. The basic story revolves around the Getter robots, built by Dr. Saotome Hagase to protect the world against alien invasion.

YU YU HAKUSHO Who says anime can't be spiritual?

Long ago, a war between the Netherworld and the Reikai, or Spirit World, resulted in the destruction of the Netherworld and the banishment of its leader, Lord Yakumo. Now, Yakumo closes in on re-establishing the Netherworld's

IN THE CARDS Yugi-Oh and the other Japanese properties have their sights set on the U.S.

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

THE ALBUM JACKET FOR KORN'S 1998 RELEASE, *FOLLOW THE LEADER*, WAS ILLUSTRATED BY *SPAWN* TEAMMATES TODD McFARLANE AND GREG CAPULLO. McFARLANE EVEN PARTIALLY DIRECTED THE VIDEO FOR THEIR HIT SONG, "FREAK ON A LEASH," WHICH CAME OFF THAT ALBUM.

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SUGGESTED 13 UP

manga MANIA!

ANIMEBUZZBOX

JAPANESE RUMOR MILL

GOING FOURTH Several weeks before the second "Pokémon" movie was released in the U.S. this past July, the third Pokéflick opened in Japan's theaters. At the end of the movie, a two-minute clip of the fourth Pokémon movie was shown. The film is rumored to mark the end for Pocket Monsters and will feature an ultra-rare Pokémon named Serebii, the "new Mew."

POP MUSIC Tokyo Pop's Soundtrax division announced the release of a CD containing music from the video game *Final Fantasy IX* coming in the fall of 2000 in association with Squaresoft.

'LOST UNIVERSE' FOUND ON DVD ADV Films recently announced it's releasing the first two episodes of the cult favorite "Lost Universe" series on DVD come September. In other ADV Films news, the company also announced it was canceling plans to release subtitled versions of "Generator Gawl" and "Gasaraki," but those titles will still be available in dubbed VHS and DVD.

FLY POWERPUFF AIR Delta Air Lines and Cartoon Network have teamed up to create a special 737 jet adorned with the Powerpuff Girls—Blossom, Bubbles and Buttercup—from wing to tail. The plane made its inaugural flight out of Boston's Logan Airport on July 17, but will continue to serve 21 airports throughout the Northeast, Midwest and Florida. Check out the specs for the plane at **www.cartoonnetwork.com/promotion/delta/index.html.**

'PRINCESS' DVD DATE DISMISSED In response to overwhelming fan response, Disney has decided to cancel its original release date of the "Princess Mononoke" DVD. Originally scheduled to hit stores on August 29, the DVD wasn't going to included the original Japanese language track. But when 4,500 fans petitioned Disney to include that track, the Home of the Mouse relented and decided to add it. No new release date has yet been scheduled. ■ THE WIZARD STAFF

power, and the only thing standing in his way are five defenders from the Spirit World. "Yu Yu Hakusho" follows the exploits of these defenders, led by Urameshi Yusuke, a man who was killed while trying to save a child and resurrected by the Reikai.

BERSERK Mercenaries are the name of the game in "Berserk," a medieval horror/fantasy anime about a knight named Gatsu. Gatsu joins a mercenary band called the Hawks, fighting for fame and glory alongside two warriors named Griffith and Caska.

So where does the horror come in? On the back of Gatsu's neck, there's a mysterious brand that attracts evil creatures, and gushes blood in their presence. Somebody grab a Band-Aid!

FURI KURI From Studio Gainax, the makers of "Neon Genesis: Evangelion," this new sci-fi/teen/romantic comedy series tells the story of a twelve-year old boy named Naota who lives in the town of Mabase. One day, he runs into a beautiful vespa-riding alien woman named Haruko, who ends up staying in his house as a housekeeper—a situation which leads to all sorts of strange happenings. There's also a robot (isn't there always?), and an epic battle which threatens to destroy Mabase.

YU YU HAKUSHO

SLAYERS Fans of swords and sorcery, this anime's for you.

The fantasy series "Slayers" follows the adventures of a powerful young sorceress named Lina Inverse, who teams up with a girl named Gourry. The two set out on a series of fabulous quests filled with mages, dark lords, and magical books. The story has its share of laughs, too, poking fun at the RPG genre. Originally told in a series of short stories, it eventually made its way to Japanese television in the form of three different series: "Slayers," "Slayers Next," and "Slayers Try."

YUGI-OH Dueling monsters, a mega-popular collectible card game, and its own Gameboy and PlayStation games. Hmm...sounds familiar, right?

No, we're not talking about Pokémon! We're talking about Yugi-oh, the latest craze to sweep Japan. Based on the popular manga and anime of the same name, it follows a typical high school loser named Yuugi Mutou who always gets picked on. But when he pieces together an ancient Egyptian puzzle, he gains the powers of the Game King. Whenever trouble strikes, he transforms into this powerful persona, using a set of cards to draw baddies into a dreamworld filled with monsters and games of chance. ■ RICHARD HO

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER IS A FAN OF LESTER DENT'S *DOC SAVAGE* COMICS, HAVING WANTING TO PLAY THE BLOND, MUSCLE-BOUND ADVENTURER IN A MOVIE ADAPTATION SINCE HIS EARLY DAYS AS A BODYBUILDER. THERE'S CURRENTLY A PROJECT IN DEVELOPMENT TO MAKE HIS WISH COME TRUE.

The Fight For Freedom has Begun!

The space colonies have grown tired of the oppressive rule by Earth Federation government. Resistance forces in the colonies have created special Mobile Suits called Gundams in order to battle the army of the Federation. Five young pilots are selected to sneak these Gundams down to Earth to wage a guerrilla battle. Can Heero, Relena, and the other Gundam pilots band together to end the Earth government's tyrannical rule or does Treize, the mysterious leader of OZ have other plans?

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RACER X-PENSIVE

Mach 5 rakes in big bucks on Ebay auction

It's all about the car...chicks dig the car.

And what chick wouldn't dig Speed Racer's Mach 5 (arguably one of the most famous racecars in the world). Recently, Speed Racer Enterprises and the Child Safety Network teamed up for an E-bay auction of the real Mach 5.

This ain't no imitation jalopy though; this is a fully operational replica of Tatsuo Yoshido;s animated automobile from the classic '60s cartoon. So expect this baby to come fully loaded with authentic Mach 5 extras: Its got everything from front saw-blade cutters to interactive voice response controls. This mechanical masterpiece snagged over $150,000 and is revving its engines for an eight-month national safety tour.

The replica was so exact that it even garnered praise from "speed freak," Tommy Yune. Yune, artist extrordinaire and the driving force behind both the *Speed Racer* and *Racer X* mini-series, said "It was a very faithful rendition. Unfortunately, I'm too practical a guy to make a bid...not even a joke bid. But I would be very interested in a kit or street version."

And Yune just may get his wish. "We were very pleased with the response that the auction garnered and feel that the exposure will help pave the way for 100 street legal Mach 5s," said Jim Rocknowski of Speed Racer Enterprises. These new cars should be priced somewhere between $60,000 and $70,000 and may appear as early as next June. Unfortunately, Chim Chim is not included.

So put the pedal to the metal and check out **speedracer.com**, for more information on the car, tour dates, a chance to win a street legal Mach 5, and nude photos of Chim Chim (just kidding). ■JAMES McDONOUGH

MACH 5

© mymach5.com

CRASH COURSE

SCHOOL'S IN SESSION

NO NEED FOR TENCHI!

With "No Need For Tenchi" ("Tenchi Muyo! Ryo-Oh-Ki!" 1995-present), creator Kajishima Masaki has created a wildly popular mix of romance, comedy and aliens. The story focuses around high school student Tenchi Masaki, whom while mourning his mother's death at a shrine, accidentally releases an *oni* (demon) named Ryoko, who'd been imprisoned within the shrine for 700 years!

While initially terrorizing Tenchi, Ryoko actually develops a crush on him. Having secretly witnessed his growth from childhood, Ryoko has grown fond of Tenchi. Let's go over some juicy tidbits you should probably know if you aren't familiar with this popular series:

NO NEED FOR TENCHI

>> With "Tenchi," romance rules. Not only does Ryoko love Tenchi, but the beautiful Aeka (the crown princess of the space kingdom of Jurai) has a fondness for him as well.

>> Ryoko's spaceship is called the Ryo-Oh-Ki, which happens to be a "cabbit," a cute mix between a cat and rabbit.

>> Cashing in on the Sailor Moon craze, the "Magical Girl Pretty Sammy" OAV and TV series spins off from "Tenchi" and features Sasami/Sammy (the younger sister of Aeka) as a magical superheroine.

>> Magical Sammy actually got her start in another "Tenchi" one-shot OAV spinoff, "The Mihoshi Special." Mihoshi, Galactic Police Officer and incredibly ditzy blonde, somehow ends up on Earth with the Tenchi crew when she falls through a time warp.

>> The name Tenchi actually can be translated as "angel" in Japanese.

>> Aeka's half brother, the crown prince Yoshou, defeated Ryoko 700 years ago and imprisoned her in the shrine where Tenchi eventually discovers her.

>> Like almost every anime comedy-drama, a *hentai* (pervert) element rears its head throughout the series. Nobuyuki Masaki, Tenchi's father, collects *shôjo* manga (girls' comic books) and has a tendency to videotape Tenchi and Ryoko's...*ahem*...romantic moments.

>> In the first of three Tenchi movies, "Tenchi Muyo in Love," we're finally able to see Tenchi's dead mother, Achika, when Tenchi and crew travel back in time to prevent an evil force (Kain) from destroying the Earth.

>> Twenty-six episodes were created for a Tenchi TV series which actually recapitulates many of the events from the original OAV series, with slight changes to the plot. This series is a great way for fans to witness thorough character development for the Tenchi gang.

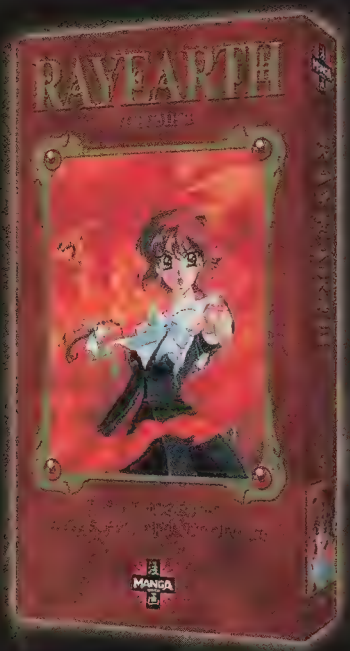
>> The numbers game: There are officially six OAVs in the first series, six in the 2nd series, four OAV specials, 26 "Tenchi" TV episodes, 26 "Pretty Sammy" TV episodes and three movies. There's also rumors of a third OAV series on the way, though. ■MIKE SHIN

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

ACTRESS JADA PINKETT ("WOO," "SCREAM 2" AND WIFE OF WILL SMITH) AT ONE POINT HAD A COMIC CHARACTER NAMED MENACE BASED ON HER IN THE WORKS WITH AWESOME ENTERTAINMENT'S ROB LIEFELD.

MANGA VIDEO SUMMER X-PLOSION!!!



RAYEARTH

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Three friends discover they need to change the course of destiny to save the world...and learn that faith in one's friendship is the ultimate power.

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CAPTOR TOYS ARE IN THE CARDS

Gotta capture 'em all!

This fall, Trendmasters releases a set of toys based on the Kids WB! show, "Cardcaptors." Fans of the show will be able to get figures for both of the Cardcaptors, Sakura and Li, as well as Keroberos, the guardian of the cards, and other supporting characters.

The show debuted in America in June after taking Japan by storm. It tells the tale of magical spirits that were imprisoned by a magician in the Clow Cards and placed within a magical book long ago. Sakura discovers this book and, thanks to her secret magical talent, releases the cards into the world. She and Li must then find and capture all of the cards before they bring mass chaos to Earth. They enlist the aid of Keroberos, who was the guardian of the book and was in the middle of a very long nap when Sakura popped the book open.

Toy captors can look forward to seeing many toys aimed at girls, including a Sakura with different outfits, plush Keroberos dolls, a PVC set of the main characters and a big ol' Sakura Wand to capture your own Clow Cards and bean people over the head with. ■ NACHIE CASTRO

MANGA IN LIBRARIES?

As a final step on the way to world domination, manga titles have officially taken over America's libraries.

Viz Comics recently donated $100,000 in comics and graphic novels to many of America's public libraries. Viz and the libraries are hoping these titles will encourage young children and teens to use the resources available to them, in addition to increasing the readership of some of Viz's most popular titles.

Gundam Wing, *Pokémon* and *Dragon Ball Z* are some of the titles that Viz is putting on the shelves, and the response has been positive so far. "I'm certain that San Francisco teens will be thrilled with these titles," said Jennifer Collins, a librarian at the San Francisco Public Library.

The libraries that Viz gave books to ranges from California to Ohio, including Dallas, TX; Seattle, WA; Madison, WI; and Los Angeles, CA, and Viz is determined to keep libraries stocked as long as there is a demand.

Next for the manga juggernaut—a tentative plan to implant chips inside the brains of people so that they will see nothing but "Pokémon" and "Gundam" cartoons when they sleep. But that's not slated to happen until Christmas. ■ NC

HOT IMPORTS

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MANGA

DRAGONBALL Z VOL. 1 TP (Viz) Son Goku battles the most evil villains of all time and space in Akira Toriyama's epic, in English and in its original comic form. $14.95

LODOSS WAR: CHRONICLES OF THE HEROIC KNIGHT #1 (CPM Manga) A new series of the Heroic Knights. In this ish, meet Spark, a new knight-in-training. $2.95

MIRACLE GIRLS #1 (Tokyopop.com) Tomomi and Mikage are twins who're totally different. Until they unite to gain Miracle Powers like telepathy, teleportation and magic! $2.95

OH MY GODDESS! PART IX #3: QUEEN SAYOKO (Dark Horse) Sayoka wants to win the Campus Queen contest so badly, she'd sell her soul to the demon Mara! $3.50

SAILOR MOON SCOUT GUIDE–MEET SAILOR VENUS: LOVE (Tokyopop.com) The second in the Guide series spotlights the lovely Sailor Venus, from her time in England to her stint with the Scouts. $12.95

WARRIOR NUN AREALA: THE MANGA (Antarctic Press) This one-shot presents the original Warrior Nun material direct from Japan from artist Run Ishida and writer Shinobu Kuwahara. $2.95

ANIME

3X3 EYES VOL. 2 THE DEMON SEAL VIDEOS (Pioneer) Yakumo must convince Pai to help him stop an ancient evil. MATURE AUDIENCES Dubbed, Subtitled–$34.98

CARDCAPTOR SAKURA VOL. 1 (Pioneer) Sakura and friends must capture the Clow Cards they unwittingly released on the world. VHS–$24.98; DVD–$29.98

ESCAFLOWNE VOL. 1: DRAGONS & DESTINY (Pioneer) Hitomi's a normal girl who happens to fall into a world of dragons and knights. Can Hitomi find the god Escaflowne and save the entire world? VHS–$19.98; DVD–$29.98

GOLGO 13: THE PROFESSIONAL VIDEOS (Urban Vision) Golgo's the ultimate hitman. But when a job pits him against the most powerful man in the country, is there anyone Golgo can trust? MA Dubbed VHS –$19.95; Subtitled–$29.95

GUNDAM WING VOL. 4: SHOWDOWN IN SPACE (Pioneer) Heero's still missing, the colonies are in trouble and Relena's headed to Moscow to track her father's killer. Contains episodes 11-13 in two versions, edited or uncut. $14.98

GUNDAM WING VOL. 5: WAY OF THE WARRIOR (Pioneer) Heero tries to make amends for killing the pacifist leader Noventia. Contains episodes 14-16, in two versions, edited or uncut. $14.98

RAYEARTH VOL. 1 (Manga Entertainment) Three friends are transported to the magic world of Cephiro, where they must become the Magic Knights to save Princess Emeraude. Dubbed VHS–$19.95; Subtitled–$24.95

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

MINNEAPOLIS-BASED MUSICIAN PRINCE WROTE THE ENTIRE SOUNDTRACK FOR THE FIRST BATMAN MOVIE, AND HIS VIDEO FOR THE SONG "BATDANCE" FEATURED HIMSELF AND A GROUP OF DANCERS DRESSED HALF AS BATMAN, HALF AS THE JOKER.

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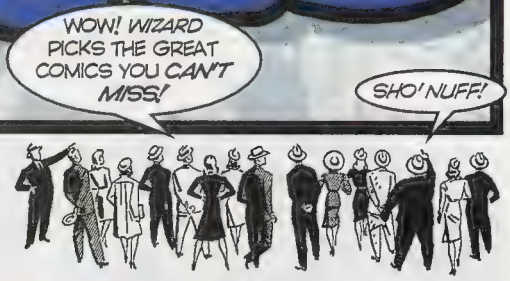


THE MUST-READ COMICS SHIPPING IN SEPTEMBER

PICK OF THE LITTER

SPOTLIGHT ON...

MIDNIGHT NATION #1

TOP COW/IMAGE ***Rising Stars*** **creator J. Michael Straczynski is at it again, this time dealing with a detective who finds an otherworldly cause for what appeared to be a routine homicide. "I wanted to try something 180-degrees different from *Stars*," he explains. "It's not a superhero book, and instead of having 113 characters covering a period of over 60 years, it's primarily the story of two people in a situation that covers roughly one year. So the 12 issues cover 12 months. It's a story in 'real time,' which I think may be a first of sorts." By Straczynski, Gary Frank and Jason Gorder. MR. $2.50** (shipping late September)

AUTHORITY #19

WILDSTORM/DC Earth is being hammered by an unseen force, and millions are toast already. The Authority needs to find out what in the Sam-Dilly is up, or else be forced to e vacuate Earth. We never had drills for that in school. By Mark Millar, Frank Quitely and Trevor Scott. **MR. $2.50** (shipping September 27)

AVENGERS #34

MARVEL Go read the *Thunderbolts* write-up, then come back. Done? Liar. This issue wraps up the T-Bolts/Avengers crossover, and as if that weren't enough, Captain America and Black Widow guest-star. Call the AP and start the parade. By Kurt Busiek, George Pérez and Al Vey. **$2.99** (Sept. 27)

BATGIRL #8

DC COMICS What's with Batgirl going without her trademark skintight costume? How is anyone gonna know she's Batgirl? Because she says so? All righty. With Lady Shiva in town, Batgirl better just grab a barrel and some suspenders and go have at it. By Kelley Puckett, Damion Scott and Robert Campanella. **$2.50** (Sept. 6)

BATMAN #583

DC COMICS The two-part "Fearless" arc wraps up, with old Wayne friend Jeremy Samuels punching his one-way ticket to self-destruction. Has Bruce ever had a friend that wasn't totally nuts in the head? Doubt it. By Ed Brubaker, Scott McDaniel and Karl Story. **$2.25** (Sept. 27)

BATMAN: DARK VICTORY #12 (OF 13)

DC COMICS "When [artist] Tim Sale read the script, his first words were, 'Shock follows shock!' " promises writer Jeph Loeb of the penultimate chapter to the mini-series. Say, why does Tim talk like that? "There are just so many surprises. People are gonna read this and go, 'What's gonna be in the last issue?' " Your thoughts intrigue us, Jeph. We'd like to subscribe to your newsletter. By Loeb and Sale. **$2.95** (Sept. 20)

CAPTAIN MARVEL #11

MARVEL After some cataclysmic goings-on in the last issue, Genis meets up with his old man, Mar-Vell. The past

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

IN THE 1999 FILM "FREE ENTERPRISE," WHICH FEATURES WILLIAM SHATNER STARRING AS HIMSELF, THERE'S A SCENE SET IN THE GOLDEN APPLE COMICS STORE IN LOS ANGELES IN WHICH A GUY AND GIRL FIGHT OVER A HARDCOVER OF *SANDMAN MYSTERY COMICS*.

and present Captain Marvels talk shop and bond. It's all very heartwarming, but you gotta wonder if it's legit. Those cosmic menaces have ways of playing with your head. By Peter David and Jim Starlin. **$2.50** (Sept. 20)

COUNTER-X BOOKS

MARVEL It's a veritable Ellis-o-rama. In *Generation X* #69 (Sept. 13), "Come on Die Young" enters part three of a four-part story, with the Massachusetts Academy coming under some serious anti-mutant heat. Over in *X-Man* #69 (Sept. 20), "Further Down the Spiral" is three-fourths done, with Nate Grey coming into contact with, uh, Nate Grey…in another one of those kinky alternate realities. And in *X-Force* #108 (Sept. 27), "Murder Ballads" continues, with a powerful being the target of an assassination. Naturally, X-Force is there to throw a wrench at his monkey. Or whatever. By Warren Ellis and assorted artists. **$2.25 each**

DAREDEVIL #18

MARVEL *Bugle* reporter Ben Urich is just about ready to uncover the connections between one weird little kid, Daredevil and the demise of Leap Frog. "It's a really interesting turn in contrast to the story I did and the story Kevin Smith did," says *Daredevil* writer-turned-artist David Mack. "It's got a very crime-fiction type of feel to it. Ben is the person who leads the reader through this story, so you get his point of view." By Brian Michael Bendis and Mack. **$2.99** (Sept. 13)

DETECTIVE COMICS #750

DC COMICS That's a lot of detective work. Batman picks a fight with Ra's Al Ghul in this seminal issue. If Batman had any smarts, he'd take his 750th issue and just chill with a Corona or something. Play it on the down low, bro. Let Ghul play mind games with someone else. We mean, damn. By Greg Rucka, Jordan B. Gorfinkel and a host of talented artists. **$4.95** (Sept. 13)

newreleases

FIRST TIME OUT

CAPTAIN AMERICA 2000 **(Marvel)** Did someone take the Super-Soldier Serum before Cap? **$3.50** (shipping September 27)

DARKNESS SPECIAL #1 **(Top Cow/Image)** The Darkness in the Dark Ages. **$4.95** (late Sept.)

DOOM THAT CAME TO GOTHAM #1 (OF 3) **(DC Comics)** An Elseworlds tale of Bats in Victorian times. **$4.95** (Sept. 13)

CHASTITY: REIGN OF TERROR #1 **(Chaos! Comics)** The babe goes after a killer of martial arts masters. **$2.95** (late Sept.)

THE COFFIN #1 (OF 6) **(Oni Press)** A body suit keeps the soul alive. Spooky. **MR.** **$2.95** (late Sept.)

JET #1 (OF 4) **(WildStorm/DC)** Backlash's daughter becomes a heroine. **$2.50** (Sept. 27)

INCREDIBLE HULK 2000 **(Marvel)** Surly Green Giant vs. the Avengers. **$2.50** (Sept. 6)

IRON FIST/WOLVERINE #1 (OF 3) **(Marvel)** Kicking ninja ass. **$2.99** (Sept. 20)

MAXIMUM SECURITY: DANGEROUS PLANET **(Marvel)** Prelude to galactic crossover. **$2.99** (Sept. 27)

OUTLAW NATION #1 **(Vertigo/DC)** A near-immortal writer is hunted by his ilk. **MR.** **$2.50** (Sept. 20)

PUNISHER/PAINKILLER JANE **(Marvel)** Young vigilantes in love. **$3.50** (Sept. 20)

ROSE #1 (OF 3) **(Cartoon Books)** The early days of Bone's Gran'ma Ben. **$5.95** (late Sept.)

SECRET SOCIETY OF SUPER-HEROES #1 (OF 2) **(DC Comics)** An underground legion of heroes betrays Superman. **$5.95** (Sept. 6)

SUPERMAN: MANN AND SUPERMAN **(DC Comics)** Supes switches bodies with some down-on-his-luck shmoe. **$5.95** (Sept. 27)

SHI: YEAR OF THE DRAGON #1 (OF 3) **(Crusade)** A teenage Ana tries to save a friend from self-destruction. **$2.99** (late Sept.)

SPIDER-GIRL PRESENTS: DARKDEVIL #1 (OF 3) **(Marvel)** Darkdevil's origin revealed. **$2.99** (Sept. 20)

STAR TREK: THE NEXT GENERATION: THE KILLING SHADOWS #1 (OF 4) **(WildStorm/DC)** Baldy and Co. take on the Bodai Shin. **$2.50** (Sept. 13)

VAGRANT STORY #1 **(Image)** Ashley Riot fights monsters. Based on an upcoming video game. **$2.95** (late Sept.)

VERTIGO SECRET FILES: SWAMP THING #1 **(Vertigo/DC)** Vegetable-Head 101. **$4.95** (Sept. 6)

X-MEN: BLACK SUN BOOKS **(Marvel)** The *Giant-Size* #1 team reunites to combat Belasco. Check out the hoopla in *X-Men: Black Sun* #1: *New X-Men* (Sept. 6), #2: *Storm* (Sept. 13), #3: *Banshee & Sunfire* (Sept. 13), #4: *Colossus & Nightcrawler* (Sept. 13), and #5: *Wolverine & Thunderbird* (Sept. 20). **$2.99** each

MR TITLES DENOTED WITH AN MR CONTAIN MATERIAL THAT'S SUGGESTED FOR MATURE READERS.

THE FLASH #166

DC COMICS "Wonderland" (part 4 of 6) keeps on spinning, with Barry Allen(!) terrorizing Flash, Captain Cold, and Mirror Master in yet another alternate reality. But what if West was living in the alternate reality before, and now he's in the actual one? Hmm? *Hmm*? By Geoff Johns, Angel Unzueta and Doug Hazelwood. **$2.25** (Sept. 27)

GATECRASHER #4

BLACK BULL ENTERTAINMENT Iceworld is dang cold. Duh. But Alec needs to be there to see what he can find out about the impending opening of the gates. All this, and Alec goes out on a date. He'll probably be making his move just as some big, ugly ice demon comes charging. By Mark Waid, Amanda Conner and Jimmy Palmiotti. **$2.50** (Sept. 27)

GREEN LANTERN #130

DC COMICS Nothing like getting sucked out of your own home to start the day right. The Manhunters abduct Kyle because they dig his cool ring. Back at home, Terry, Kyle's new assistant, notices a big ol' hole in the ceiling and wonders how it got there. By Judd Winick, Darryl Banks and Andy Smith. **$2.25** (Sept. 6)

GREEN LANTERN VERSUS ALIENS #1 (OF 4)

DARK HORSE/DC Here's an interesting idea: What if Hal Jordan encountered those ugly Aliens back in the day, and then decided to trap them rather than off them? "The Aliens end up rearing their heads about a decade later," explains Ron Marz. "At that point, there's no more Corps. There's just Kyle. He's put in the position to deal with a problem that was started by Hal and the Corps." By Marz, Rick Leonardi and Mike Perkins. **$2.95** (Sept. 13)

HELLBLAZER #154

VERTIGO/DC "Good Intentions" continues, and in Part 4, John digs even deeper into the dark secrets that plague the Fermin Brothers. "John gets more involved in this town," writer Brian Azzarello promises. "Things that look really horrible on the surface are even worse underneath. It's really nothing you can print." We'll take two! By Azzarello and Marcelo Frusin. **MR. $2.50** (Sept. 27)

DREAMPICKS

THE IDEAL COMIC

CLAREMONT/BYRNE X-MEN

During their run on *Uncanny X-Men* 20 years ago, Chris Claremont and John Byrne collaborated on some of the best comic book stories ever. "Days of Future Past." "The Dark Phoenix Saga." The Proteus storyline. But after *Uncanny* #143, Byrne left the book, and Claremont continued writing until 1991. Recently, Claremont came back to write both monthly X-titles, *Uncanny X-Men* and *X-Men*. So the natural question is: Will Byrne and Claremont ever reunite to do another X-Men story? Claremont's answer is simple: "You'll have to ask John," says the scribe. "I suspect anything is possible, but I would say it's not in the immediate cards." One thing's for certain. If the two ever teamed up again, fans would go nuts, because those 20-year old stories attract new fans even today. "[Working with John] is like magic for one. Synergy," says Claremont. "John is a superb storyteller. We complemented each other."

INCREDIBLE HULK #20

MARVEL Doc Samson! General Ross! Secrets of Ryker revealed! It's all in the big-ass conclusion to "Dogs of War," and all sorts of stuff is happening. Plus you get to see a big, drooling, mentally challenged, greenish-tinted doofus to boot. More value for your dollar. By Paul Jenkins, Ron Garney and Sal Buscema. **$2.25** (Sept. 20)

IRON MAN BOOKS

MARVEL In *Iron Man* #34 (Sept. 13), Tony attends a party of the rich and fabulous. Dr. Power grants them all superhuman abilities, which can't be a good idea. By Joe Quesada, Frank Tieri, Paul Ryan and Rob Hunter. And in *Iron Man: Bad Blood* #3 (of 4, Sept. 27), Tony and Jimmy Rhodes get into a little slap-fight. By David Michelinie and Bob Layton. **$2.25**—*Iron Man*, **$2.99**—*Bad Blood*

JLA BOOKS

DC COMICS In *JLA: Heaven's Ladder* (Sept. 13), an obnoxious alien race actually manages to steal Earth for some sort of wacky cosmic science fair. And in *JLA* #47 (Sept. 27), the Queen of Fables gets in the collective face of the team,

STARBURST

Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

THE MEMBERS OF SPEED METAL BAND ANTHRAX WERE SUCH BIG FANS OF THE *JUDGE DREDD* COMICS, THEY WROTE THE SONG "I AM THE LAW" FOR THE 1987 ALBUM "AMONG THE LIVING" AND PUT AN IMAGE OF THE VIOLENT HERO ON THEIR T-SHIRTS.

minus a key member who was kicked out last issue. Good timing. Both by Mark Waid, Bryan Hitch and Paul Neary. **$9.95**—*Heaven's Ladder*, **$2.25**—*JLA*

LEGION LOST #7 (OF 12)

DC COMICS Lost in space, trapped among the stars...no matter how poetic it sounds, it translates into meaning you're up poop creek without a paddle. Ultra Boy may be able to unlock a key secret in a planet the team comes across, but only after they deal with its defender, Singularity. By Dan Abnett, Andy Lanning and Olivier Coipel. **$2.50** (Sept. 6)

MARVEL BOY #4 (OF 6)

MARVEL Noh-Varr thinks he's found the perfect gal. Sadly, like any other woman, she wants his head on a platter. Exterminatrix and her pappy, Dr. Midas, have it out for the kid. Stop thinking with your pants, boy! By Grant Morrison and J.G. Jones. **$2.99** (Sept. 6)

PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN #23

MARVEL Type Face is a pretty lame handle for a villain, but we'll see how this new threat to Spidey develops. In the meantime, Peter and Randy Robertson are having dreams about being abducted by aliens. Is this a comic book or a FOX special? By Paul Jenkins, Mark Buckingham and Dan Green. **$2.25** (Sept. 20)

POWERS #5

IMAGE Detectives Walker and Pilgrim finally stop squabbling and get to some investigating, all of which leads to a surprise discovery and a surprise confession. But from whom? Godspeed, friends. By Brian Michael Bendis, Mike Avon Oeming and Pat Garrahy. **MR. $2.95** (late Sept.) *For more on* Powers, *check out "Book of the Month" on page 134.*

PUNISHER #8 (OF 12)

MARVEL Ma Gnucci has tried everything to get back at Frank Castle, including guns and plenty of cronies. Maybe the Russian

alsoshipping

MORE BOOKS TO GET

AMAZING SPIDER-MAN #23 **(Marvel)** Aliens, revelations, and a general air of suckatude. **$2.25** (shipping September 13)

AQUAMAN #73 **(DC Comics)** Aqua's artificial hand gets possessed. Where's Ash? **$2.50** (Sept. 20)

BATMAN BOOKS **(DC Comics)** More Bat-Fun than you can shake your groove thing at. In *Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight* #135 (Sept. 6), Colonel Brass and his minions make trouble. Over in *Batman: Gotham Knights* #9 (Sept. 20), Our Hero takes on Hugo Strange in the WayneCorp building. *Knights*–**$2.50**, *Legends*–**$2.25**

CAPTAIN AMERICA #35 **(Marvel)** Cap versus the equally buff Protocide. **$2.25** (Sept. 20)

FANTASTIC FOUR #35 **(Marvel)** The FF tangles with Diablo. Deluxe cover–**$3.25**, standard cover–**$2.25** (Sept. 6)

JSA #16 **(DC Comics)** Sorrow and the Injustice team get down and dirty. **$2.50** (Sept. 20)

NIGHTWING #49 **(DC Comics)** Dick has to deal with both Sylph and Torque. **$2.25** (Sept. 13)

100 BULLETS #16 **(Vertigo/DC)** Loop needs to decide whether to trust his deadbeat father or take up Agent Graves' offer to put the screws to him. **MR. $2.50** (Sept. 6)

RACER X #2 (OF 3) **(WildStorm/DC)** Rex gets challenged to a race. No kidding! **$2.50** (Sept. 27)

SAM AND TWITCH #14 **(Todd McFarlane Productions/Image)** The duo encounters yet another corpse. **$2.50** (late Sept.)

SAVAGE DRAGON #79 **(Image)** In a strange new world, the Dragon fends off a 100-foot woman. Yowza! **$2.95** (late Sept.)

SHOCKROCKETS #6 **(Gorilla/Image)** The rookies deal with General Korda's attack. **$2.50** (late Sept.)

SUPERMAN BOOKS **(DC Comics)** In *Adventures of Superman* #584 (Sept. 13), the big man juggles a bachelor party and fighting off Devouris. Over in *Superman: The Man of Steel* #106 (Sept. 20), Lois and Lori Lemaris have to deal with killer fish. And in *Action Comics* #771 (Sept. 27), Nightwing guests. **$2.25** each

THOR #29 **(Marvel)** The Wrecking Crew is singled out for an ass-whipping. **$2.25** (Sept. 6)

TOMB RAIDER #8 **(Top Cow/Image)** Jiggle. Jiggle. Splash. Jiggle. **$2.50** (late Sept.)

USAGI YOJIMBO #41 **(Maverick/Dark Horse)** Usagi and pals continue their quest to return Grasscutter to Atsuta Shrine. **$2.95** (Sept. 27)

WITCHBLADE #43 **(Top Cow/Image)** The Witchblade wants to snack on Sara. Can you blame it? **$2.50** (late Sept.)

WOLVERINE #156 **(Marvel)** Wolvie and Spidey get it on with the Mole Man. **$2.25** (Sept. 27)

X-MEN BOOKS **(Marvel)** God bless the movie stars for keeping their commitments. In *Uncanny X-Men* #386 (Sept. 6), a new threat to humanity steps up, and he has his eyes set on Phoenix. By Chris Claremont and Tom Raney. Over in *X-Men* #106 (Sept. 20), the origin of the Neo is revealed, along with hints as to what kind of hanky-panky Rogue and Colossus might be up to. By Claremont, Leinil Francis Yu and Mark Morales. **$2.25**–*Uncanny*, **$2.99**–*X-Men*

will be the answer. Frank, meanwhile, is still on his death bed, but the big softie wants to get it together to save his friend Spacker Dave. By Garth Ennis, Steve Dillon and Jimmy Palmiotti. **$2.99** (Sept. 13)

RISING STARS #11

TOP COW/IMAGE The Specials, those wacky people with the power to turn you into dust, are at it again. Inner turmoil is about to separate them into warring factions. Nothing like God-like beings smacking each other around to make Earth just a little nervous. By J. Michael Straczynski, Christian Zanier and Livesay. **$2.50** (late Sept.)

SENTRY #3 (OF 5)

MARVEL Hulk and Spider-Man guest star, with Bob Reynolds bugging them to recall his history as the Sentry. Mr. Fantastic, that surefire sales igniter, also gets a surprise visitor. By Paul Jenkins and Jae Lee. **$2.99** (Sept. 20)

SPAWN BOOKS

TODD McFARLANE PRODUCTIONS/IMAGE In *Spawn* #102 (late Sept.), Vomit Face runs into some yahoo who finds a cursed Nazi artifact. Isn't that an oxymoron? Anyway, of *Hellspawn* #2 (late Sept.), writer Brian Michael Bendis proclaims: "It deals with the Heaven and Hell war that's been going on. It's sort of a cold war." *Spawn, Hellspawn*—**$2.50**

SPYBOY #12

DARK HORSE While SpyBoy is busy fending off the shark-like attack of Slackjaw, Bombshell is in Japan throwing down with SpyGirl. Equal rights are all the rage these days. Maybe she can pick up an import PS2 for her man. By Peter David, Pop Mhan and Norman Lee. **$2.95** (Sept. 20)

on the edge

OFF THE BEATEN PATH

BAD MOON RISING

The title character of Blind Wolf's *Patrick the Wolf Boy* #1 does everything you'd expect a normal little fella to do. Plays ball with his old man, cracks open the books in school, and bays at the moon. Patrick, as the title probably gave away, is a werewolf. Raw squirrels are his favorite snack. No word yet on whether he sees fit to tear his obnoxious classmates limb from limb. **$2.95** (shipping late September)

STAR WARS: DARTH MAUL #1 (OF 4)

DARK HORSE Poor Maul. Just half the man he used to be. But before his unfortunate run-in with a lightsaber, he was one of the most feared men in the galaxy. Witness Lord Sidious send Maul out to deal with the Black Sun crime organization. He won't be taking any guff. By Ron Marz, Jan Duursema and Rick Magyar. **$2.95** (Sept. 6)

SUPERMAN #162

DC COMICS Aquaman versus Supes? Wonder what got their tights in a knot. "Believe it or not, they're fighting over Luthor," writer Jeph Loeb explains. "Horrible monsters from the deep are doing bad things in the North Atlantic. It also has a pretty great cliffhanger ending." Loeb later admitted the ending was just "okay." By Loeb, Ed McGuinness and Cam Smith. **$2.25** (Sept. 6)

TOM STRONG #10

WILDSTORM/DC It's a Strong family reunion this go-round, as Warren Strong and Tom's daughter, Tesla, make appearances. Tesla: What eight beers and a convenient pile of hay results in. And Warren? Find out about him here. By Alan Moore, Chris Sprouse, Gary Gianni and Al Gordon. **$2.95** (Sept. 20)

THUNDERBOLTS #44

MARVEL "It involves a lot of Thunderbolts and a lot of Avengers hitting, slapping and slamming," promises Fabian Nicieza of this issue, which pits both teams against Count Nefaria. "Enough to satisfy the hitting and slapping needs of the reader." If their needs are that strong, try *S&M Smackdown Monthly*. By Nicieza, Mark Bagley and Greg Adams. **$2.25** (Sept. 20)

ULTIMATE SPIDER-MAN #1

MARVEL God knows why the world needs yet another interpretation of Spidey's origin, but since Brian

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

ACTOR BRUCE CAMPBELL'S ("JACK OF ALL TRADES," THE "EVIL DEAD" MOVIES) FAVORITE COMIC CHARACTER WHEN GROWING UP WAS ZORRO. "HE HAD A GROOVY CAPE AND COULD SWORD FIGHT AND RIDE HORSES AND EVERYTHING, BUT HE WASN'T SO 'SUPER' THAT I COULDN'T RELATE TO HIM."

Michael Bendis (*Jinx*) is writing...okay. "The first six issues lay out a very emotional and hopefully intelligent retelling," Bendis relates. "He's going to high school, a bit of an egghead, he's got troubles. And then he gets bit by a spider." Wonder if we can warn Uncle Ben in time. Lunch first though. By Bendis, Mark Bagley and Art Thibert. **$2.99** (Sept. 6)

UNIVERSE X #2 (OF 12)

MARVEL The Human Torches of the world are under siege, so the two Captains (America and Mar-Vell) run in to save the day. All that drama, plus new, depressing renditions of all your favorite Marvel superheroes who had it easy during *Earth X*! Taste the angst! By Alex Ross, Jim Krueger and Doug Braithwaite. **$3.50** (Sept. 27)

characterprofile

RAP SHEET

BUFFY

FINE DINING While shopping for a turkey for Thanksgiving, Buffy was attacked by a vampire who dresses her up real nice in an effort to make Buffy his holiday feast. She winds up beatin' on that vampire with pumpkin pie, glacé cherries and a turkey. (*Buffy* #3)

NIGHTY NIGHT Buffy once faced a horde of vampires in her pajamas, with a rolling pin and barbecue fork as her only weapons. (*Buffy* #7)

SMART CHICK Buffy reads *Medieval Survivalist Monthly* and collects ancient weapons (which wind up collecting dust in a corner). (*Buffy* #3)

SMILES COST NOTHING Buffy's ambition? To bring sunshine to the Slayer profession. She calls it "Decapitation with a smile." (*Buffy* #2)

LOVE THANG Buffy's true love is Angel, a vampire! "Guess Who's Coming to Dinner" has nothing on this romance.

BUFFY IN THE BUFF Buffy gets naked in issue #15. Okay, so it's not Buffy. It's an evil clone manufactured from slayer bones and vampire blood. Close enough for us, though!

BELLY GIRL Buffy's bare midriff shows up in just about every other issue. SAUCY!

FOOT FETISH When Buffy found herself out of stakes in a big battle with a bad-ass vampire, she didn't run; she whipped off her shoe and rammed that puppy into his dead heart! (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer* #1)

HOME SWEET HELL Buffy lives in Sunnydale, a town located on top of the "Hellmouth," where she admits there are "more deaths than fire drills." (*Buffy* #1)

ORIGIN

Buffy Summers was just a normal girl with normal problems–boys, school, makeup and hair woes. That is, until she met Merrick, a wise old man who told Buffy her destiny was to kill vampires. After her initial shock, Buffy grew into her role as a vampire slayer, even though her mentor committed suicide to save her identity from one of the bloodsuckers. Now Buffy battles vampires every month with a close group of friends including her new mentor Professor Giles, witch-in-training Willow and slacker-in-training Xander. Equipped with stakes, crosses, holy water and one hot-ass body, she's gone from prom queen to a vampire's worst nightmare.

NOW APPEARING

Besides seeing Buffy every week on the WB network, fans can catch up with her in her monthly comic from Dark Horse. Expect to see the usually light-hearted look at vampires get a little darker in the next few months as Buffy crosses over with that lovable vampire (and love of her life) Angel for October, November and December (*Buffy the Vampire Slayer* #26–#28, *Angel* #12–#14). Dark Horse promises much more of a horror feel in those issues, as well as for the rest of the series. Also, look for "Buffy" series creator Joss Whedon to take a crack at comic book writing with an as-yet-unscheduled mini-series taking place 500 years after the events of today's Buffy tales.

bookofthemonth

POWERS

TWO HUMAN COPS PATROL A SUPERHUMAN CITY OF MURDER AND MYSTERY

Powers begins when superheroes die.

The superhero crime drama stars Christian Walker and Deena Pilgrim, detectives who solve the murders of costumed crimefighters. But these cops don't have any flashy powers or costumes to back them up—just badges and guns.

"It's the 'VH1 Behind the Music' idea of celebrity applied to superheroes," says writer Brian Michael Bendis, whose crime story *Jinx* landed him an Eisner award. "Some are one-hit wonders, some are legends, some are burnouts, some are scandals. They permeate the culture, but we don't actually see them all that often. Walker and Deena do because it's their jobs, but we just hear about them on the news."

In the current storyarc, Walker and Pilgrim discover the beaten body of the beloved, high-profile superhero Retro Girl beside the spray painted words—and possible clue—"kaotic chic." Questioning her teammates and enemies provides few clues, as does the attempted autopsy, which fails when the medical examiner is unable to pierce Retro Girl's impervious skin. Not even a blowtorch can do the job.

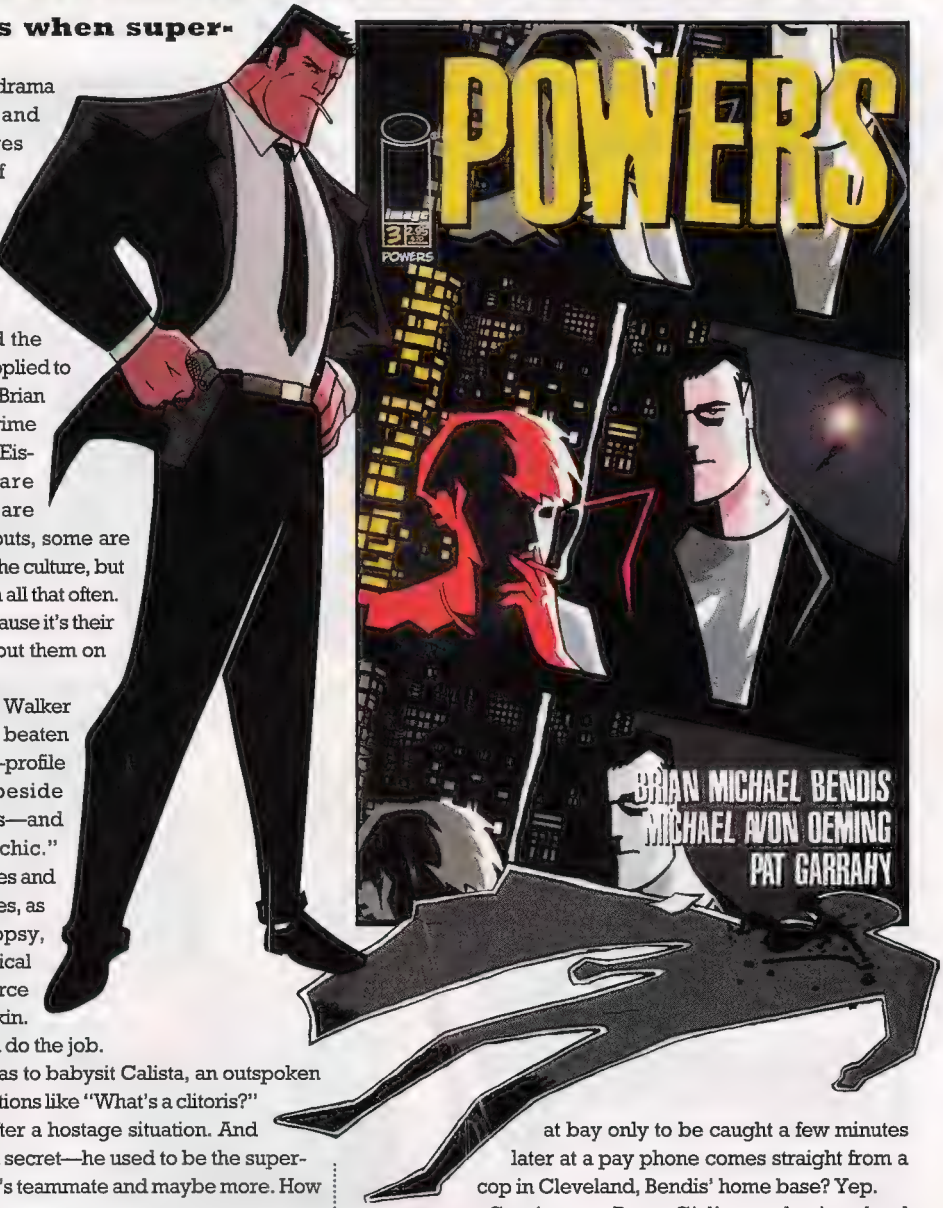
Meanwhile, Walker has to babysit Calista, an outspoken 6-year-old who asks questions like "What's a clitoris?" and was left orphaned after a hostage situation. And Walker's been keeping a secret—he used to be the superhero Diamond, Retro Girl's teammate and maybe more. How he lost his powers remains a mystery.

Bendis' trademark dialogue in *Powers* rings like true-to-life cop talk. Readers send him hundreds of e-mails asking for definitions of slang terms like "you screwed the pooch" (you blew it), "otr" (on the rag), and "bumping uglies" (having sex). "I know adults read this," says Bendis. "They read it because they love comics. Of course you have to get a certain amount of information across, but these people don't need things explained to them."

More authentic still are the police scenarios in *Powers*. "I've been on ride-alongs and now a lot of cops read my stuff, so they're very willing to tell me their stories," swears Bendis. "Every anecdote in *Powers* is true." So Deena's story about a killer holding dozens of cops at bay only to be caught a few minutes later at a pay phone comes straight from a cop in Cleveland, Bendis' home base? Yep.

Coming up, Retro Girl's murder is solved by *Powers* #6, followed by a one-shot story in #7 designed as an easy jumping-on point for new readers: Warren Ellis (*Planetary*, *Transmetropolitan*), who co-wrote the issue, guest stars as himself. "A very famous, quite pompous graphic novelist is invited on a ride-along with Walker," laughs Bendis. "Much to Walker's chagrin, he won't shut up about the comics industry." That gets him into trouble when he and Walker encounter flavor-of-the-month supervillain The Rave.

Ellis ain't the only guest star in *Powers*. Independent creators have flocked to Bendis, offering their characters for guest shots in the series. Cameos by popular superheroes



STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

ANTHRAX GUITARIST SCOTT IAN ONCE SAID THAT ALAN MOORE'S CLASSIC STORY *THE KILLING JOKE* IS THE DEFINITIVE JOKER STORY, HAVING READ IT SEVERAL TIMES WHILE ON TOUR. HE ALSO OWNS A GUITAR WITH THE TEENAGE MUTANT NINJA TURTLES PAINTED ON IT.

and villains litter the title—sometimes a single panel, sometimes a page. Shadowhawk, Madman and Savage Dragon appear in issue #4 amongst more than 60 guest cameos. Other appearances include original characters by creators like Joe Quesada (*Daredevil*), Dave Johnson (*100 Bullets*) and David Mack (*Daredevil*).

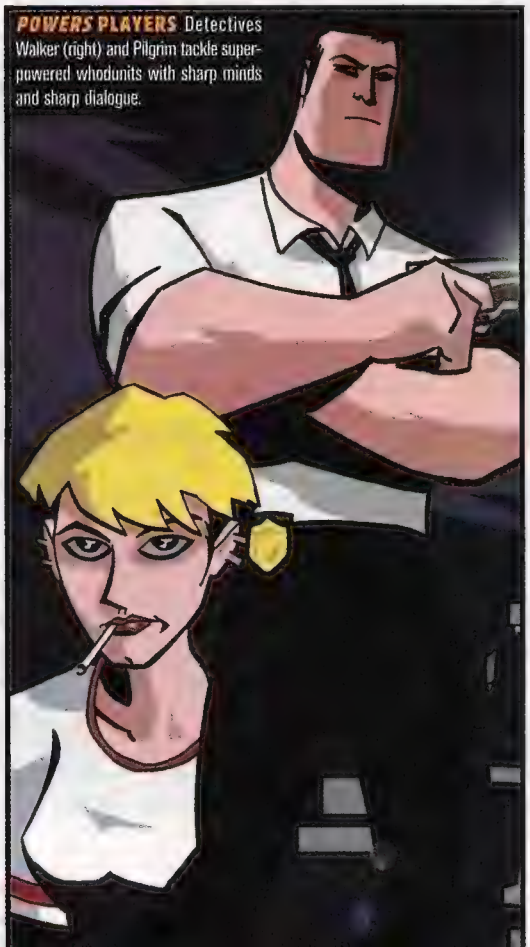
After Ellis' appearance, Bendis explores the consequences of emulating idols in "Role-Play," the storyarc beginning in issue #8. "You know how girls dress up as Madonna?" asks Bendis. "College students dress up as superheroes and get whacked. It's a case of mistaken identity. Someone thinks they're killing real superheroes."

Artist Michael Avon Oeming (*Foot Soldiers, Ship of Fools*) has to create the stylized likenesses of all these cops, heroes and guest stars. Inspired by Alex Toth (Space Ghost) and WB animator Bruce Timm, Oeming's cartoony style gives a simple, iconic look to *Powers*. But don't confuse "cartoony" with saccharine sweet. As funny as it can be, *Powers* also carries some intense moments, and Oeming's pencils provide the right grittiness for its crime-based material.

Picking up from Bendis' "VH1 Behind the Music" idea, many of *Powers*' heroes and villains are patterned after actual celebrities—but the writer's not saying who's who. "It's an essence thing," Bendis muses. "I look at this character and think, oh that's so-and-so. I couldn't tell you why, but that's who I see. You may not see the same thing."

Whether the heroes "secret identities" ever become clear or not, Bendis knows he's got something new. "You feel like with superheroes everything's been done before, so when I came up with *Powers* I was all excited," Bendis laughs. "Hey, this hasn't been done before. I've got one!"

■ ANTHONY PEARCE



POWERS PLAYERS Detectives Walker (right) and Pilgrim tackle superpowered whodunits with sharp minds and sharp dialogue.

Warren Ellis Stephen Ellison

MORE REASONS TO READ THIS BOOK

bookmarks

UNUSUAL SUSPECTS

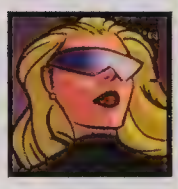
Who killed Retro Girl?

DETECTIVE CHRISTIAN WALKER The former superhero known as Diamond, Walker brings his intimate knowledge of the hero world to his job as a non-powered cop in a superpowered town. Still a mystery is how he lost his powers—and if he's hiding anything else.

DEENA PILGRIM Walker's bright, no-nonsense new partner, formerly with the SWAT team. She may be a small woman but she packs a serious kick—she whups *three* of Johnny Royalle's henchmen without breaking a sweat. Could she be hiding a secret—or superpowers?

CALISTA A sweet little 6-year-old in Det. Walker's care after her mother abandoned her, Calista wears a towel around her neck like a cape and asks what a clitoris is. She seems innocent enough—until she repeats the clue "kaotic chic," words spray painted at the murder scene.

JOHNNY ROYALLE The Lex Luthor of *Powers*, this organized crime boss once led an army of supervillains who clashed with Retro Girl and other heroes. With a $150-million lawsuit for negligence and harassment dangling over the police department, he's considered untouchable.



ZORA Zora claims her superpowers stem from her conclusion that there is no God, and therefore she is her own God. Retro Girl's former partner, you'd think she's one of the good guys. But if she's her own personal deity, could she give herself a license to kill?

DETECTIVE KUTTER Walker's slimy antagonist on the force who always sticks his nose where it doesn't belong, Kutter and Walker hate each other. Kutter butts in to Walker's case by arresting Johnny Royalle on zero evidence. Could he have a reason to foul up the investigation?

TRIPHAMMER This longtime do-gooder clad in red armor knew Walker when he was the superpowered Diamond. He knew Retro Girl, too—in the biblical sense. He claims innocence, but Retro Girl was found with red metal paint under her fingernails.

WARREN ELLIS Comics No. 1 crazy man enters the four-color world in *Powers* #7 when Det. Walker takes the "graphic novelist" on a ride-along, much like *Powers* author Brian Michael Bendis does to capture realistic cop situations and dialogue.

■ THE *WIZARD* STAFF

'NET GAINS

THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

'Wizard' spotlights the seven books with a perfect 10 CGC grade

We know what you're thinking. You've kept your copy of *Captain Carrot and the Zoo-Crew* #1 unread, bagged and boarded since its release. You're sure that professional grading service CGC (Comics Guaranty Corporation) would give it their highest grade, a perfect, unflawed 10.0, in a snap. Untold riches could soon be yours.

Think again.

"When we suspect a book deserves a 10.0, it gets looked over for a much longer period [than other books]," says CGC Primary Grader Steve Borock. "We really go over it with a fine-toothed comb; people are going to try and criticize it."

Since opening this January, CGC has only given, to the best of Borock's knowledge, a mere seven of the 9,000+ books that have passed through its doors the highly coveted 10.0: *Spawn* #1, *Spawn* #5, *Wolverine* (ongoing) #1, 2 copies of *Magdalena* #1 (variant holofoil-cover edition), *Venom* (variant black cover) #1 and *Spider-Man* (bagged silver edition) #1.

Borock believes that more 10.0-graded comics could pop up this year, although he warns that it's rare to find a 10.0 even among newly printed comics leaving the presses.

"The way the pages are cut and the piling of the product means that 10s are few and far between," Borock explains.

When the CGC graders all agree a book rates a 10, Borock says he and his staff want to bounce off the walls—but the much-in-demand service just can't make the time. "I do get excited! We get very excited! We just get so many books we don't have time to get excited," says Borock. "We're so busy, we just say, 'Well, somebody's going to be happy.'

"The big deal for us is the Golden Age books that get an 8.0 or 9.0," Borock adds. "Those are really incredible, in that they've fared so well after 60 years."

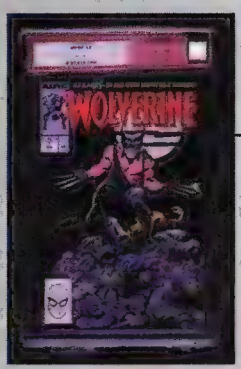
To those lucky books that do receive a 10.0, Borock advises that "a nice, secure environment" and "climate control" are necessities for storage. ■ JESSE THOMPSON

SKY'S THE LIMIT

A PERFECT 10 CGC BOOKS GRADED 10.0 (SO FAR):

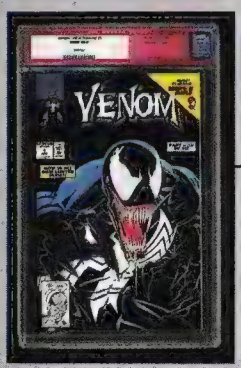
Spawn #1
Wizard guide value: $14
Estimated CGC 10.0 value:
$450

Spawn #5
Wizard guide value: $10
Estimated CGC 10.0 value:
$300



Wolverine (ongoing series) #1
Wizard guide value: $25
Estimated CGC 10.0 value:
$650

2 copies of Magdalena #1 (variant holofoil cover edition)
Wizard guide value: $12
Actual CGC 10.0 value:
$330



Venom (variant black cover) #1
Wizard guide value: $150
Estimated CGC 10.0 value:
$2,000

Spider-Man (bagged silver ed.) #1
Wizard guide value: $15
Actual CGC 10.0 value:
$310

NEWLY REVITALIZED IMAGE CENTRAL PACKS SALES PUNCH

Image Central, once the home of the least-well-regarded and weakest-selling Image books, has turned over a new leaf with titles like *Powers* and *The Red Star*.

"There's a lot of positive buzz in the community about the books," says Mike Banks, general manager of Phoenix, Ariz.-based store All About Books and Comics.

Image is split into four camps: Todd McFarlane Productions, publisher of the Spawn books; Top Cow, home of such books as *Tomb Raider*, *Witchblade* and *Rising Stars*; Highbrow Entertainment, publisher of *Savage Dragon*; and Image Central, which publishes everything else. That "everything else," until recently, had little impact on the industry and cancellations were common. But in the past few months Image Central has become a serious publishing force.

"I blame it all on Jim Valentino [who came on board as Image Central publisher in Sept. 1999]," says Anthony Bozzi, Image's director of sales and marketing. "As an Image founder and partner, he has the power and ability to shake up the company in ways that were simply impossible before."

Books like *Powers*, *Echo* and *Warlands* are all seeing sales steadily rise, says Bozzi, and it's expected *The Red Star* and *Violent Messiahs* will soon follow suit. And proven sellers *E.V.E. Protomecha* and *Soul Saga* will move from the Top Cow banner to Image Central with their next issues.

Powers, in particular, enjoys a lot of demand. "We overprinted it, fans embraced it, and diligent retailers keep reordering it," says Bozzi. "Initial orders keep going up several thousand copies per issue."

"And with *Violent Messiahs* we had to do advance reorders before the book even hit the stands," adds Banks.

■ JIM AREHART

ASK THE COLLECTOR

Collecting tips from comics' crotchety cosmic guru

PHOTO BY PAUL SCHRAUB

Q: ***It looks like you have what's known as "problem stubble."–Ryan Jacob, Philadelphia, PA***

A: *Confound it! I am the Collector, wielder of the feared and respected Reality Gem and cataloguer of all that is! May the Liberty Bell sound your death knell a thousand times, insect! And piss on your stubble!*

Q: ***I just bought some back issues of* Wonder Man *and* Daredevil *in Near Mint condition, but there's a problem: They smell really, really bad. Does this make them worth less?–Loathar1@aol.com***

A: *Fascinating! As it turns out, smell has no bearing on a book's value, unless the smell stems from, say, water damage, mold or glue from restoration. In those cases, the smell is merely a tip-off that the book has other, more serious, problems. Some pedigrees (a collection of comic books) even have a distinct smell to them.*

Q: ***What are the tax implications of buying a comic book for 12 cents in 1968 and then selling it for $1,200 in 2000?– EnergyJoe@kscable.com***

A: *As it turns out, collectibles have an even higher capital gains tax than stocks and bonds! If you were a New York resident, for example, you'd owe the feds 28 percent, or $336, and state taxes of 7 percent, or $84. That's $420 you owe the Man–or about a third of what you sold it for. Glad you asked?*

GOT A QUESTION?

Write your questions to:
ASK THE COLLECTOR
c/o Wizard Entertainment
151 Wells Ave.
askthecollector@wizard-world.com

UPS & DOWNS

'S AND SHAKERS IN THE INDUSTRY

SUPERMAN Jeph Loeb and Ed McGuinness' *Superman* has led the way for the whole Superman line of titles this month, as the Bizarro-themed "Superman: Arkham" storyline catapults them all up 6%-11% in sales. And *Superman* finally lands in the Top 25! DC sent black-and-white previews to retailers to encourage them to up their orders–it obviously worked.

BIG MONEY COMICS/ART With Alex Ross art selling for a staggering $70,000-plus and CGC graded books of 9.4 or higher netting over 500 percent more than current price guide values, comics haven't seen this type of green in seven years.

'PETER PARKER: SPIDER-MAN' Fans have been ambivalent about the usual Spider-Man fare Marvel published for the last several years–we know, we get the mail. So expectations were high for writer Paul Jenkins' and penciler Mark Buckingham's first issue, #20. They delivered: That ish was the No. 1 most-reordered book the week it shipped.

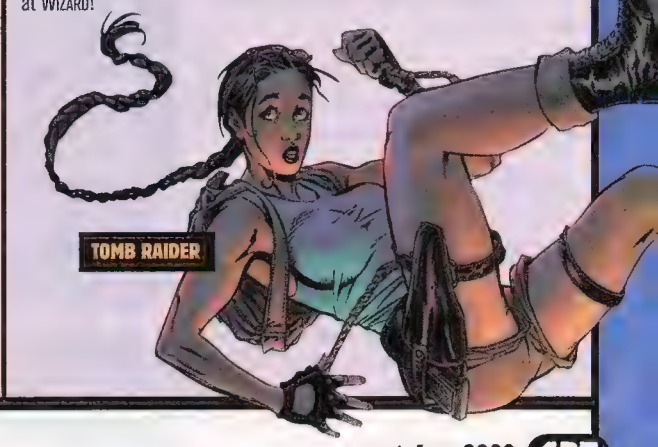
THE 'X-MEN' MOVIE Wow! Not only did this flick exceed all moviegoers expectations and make almost $55 million its opening weekend, but comic retailers are seeing the payoff as well. Every comic with an "X" on it is seeing an increase, from classic '70s tales like *Giant-Size X-Men* #1 and *X-Men* #94 to the current Claremont-written stuff.

'SPAWN' With #100, Todd McFarlane's satanic soldier soared back to the top of the charts for the first time since issue #65 in August 1997.

'TOMB RAIDER' Despite a white-hot start, a piece of the current Fathom/Witchblade/TR mega-crossover and an upcoming movie starring Angelina Jolie, Lara Croft has fallen outta Diamond Comic Distributor's Top 10 best-sellers this summer. Let's hope this mainstream mistress can recapture the magic that put her on top in the first place.

'FATHOM' What's this in the news?! Artist Michael Turner is sidelined with an injury? That means no *Fathom* issues on even a semi-regular schedule?! Nnnnnnoooooooooo!! All right, the guy may be hurting and in dire need of medical attention, but darn it, we want our super-sexy water hero babe!! Seriously though, Mike, get well soon, from all of your friends at WIZARD!

SUPERMAN



TOMB RAIDER

Comics by the Numbers
THE TICKER

10,000,000 Dollars offered to Rob Liefeld by New Line Cinema in 1995 to purchase the entire Extreme Studios library of characters—Liefeld declined

1,125,000 Number of *Pokémon* comic four-packs sold through mass-market outlets

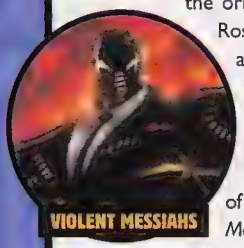
ACTION COMICS #1

74,350 Dollars paid at a Sotheby's auction for a CGC 3.0 (Good/Very Good) copy of *Action Comics* #1

22,654 Dollars paid on eBay for a Bethlehem Collection pedigree issue of (Uncanny) *X-Men* #1 with a CGC grade of 9.4 (Near Mint)

6,000 Amount that same (Uncanny) *X-Men* #1, in the same Near Mint condition, grades for in this issue's price guide

17,000 Total dollars paid just for the original cover art to Alex Ross' *Batman: War on Crime* at a Sotheby's auction, with all proceeds going to charity


VIOLENT MESSIAHS

7,500 Number of overship copies of *Violent Messiahs* #1 sent to comic stores, according to Image Comics—and it still sold out

400 Number of comics a day the Comics Guaranty Corporation (CGC) receives to be graded as of July 2000, on average

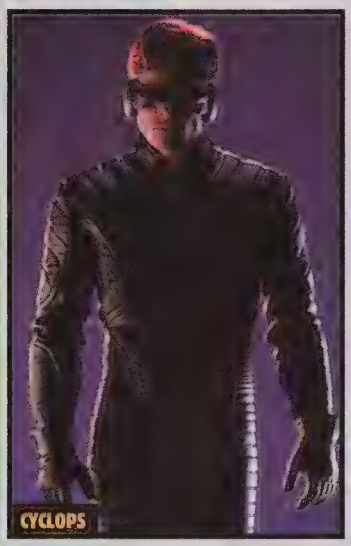
250 Number of comics a day CGC received to be graded as of June 2000, on average

20 Anniversary year of DC's 1980 Chicago Con Talent Search, which turned up Marc Silvestri, Jerry Ordway and Larry Mahlstedt

COOL AND ONLINE

X-MEN PROPS ONLINE

Wow! After the X-Men movie, WIZARD kept track of the props from the movie on sale at www.fox-auction.com. Here's what sold for what:


CYCLOPS

MAN IN BLACK For those of you who would've liked to re-enact the dramatic Wolverine rescue or the final Sabretooth-aimed zap, sorry; Cyclops' Screen-Worn Battle Uniform sold for a whopping $17,609.99 online. Good thing a certificate of authenticity was included. We know tight black leather is all the rage, but sheesh!

MAGNETO SOX Giving new meaning to the words static cling, Magneto's Socks (worn on screen by Ian McKellen with that classy Nehru-jacket-and-cape ensemble) prove that black knee-highs are truly imposing. For the lucky winner who forked over $97.50...well, let's just hope that Sir Ian washed them first.

MY BOOTS, BUB Staying true to his lumberjack look, Wolverine's Screen-Worn Cowboy Boots are black, worn-in, and appear in the bar scene where he terrorizes the brawler whose ass got handed to him. The would-be Canucklehead who shelled out $510 for these babies will feel a lot tougher, but we suggest staying away from the fistfights.

JEANIE'S KNEE-HIGHS While suiting up for the climactic battle against Magneto, we got a gander at Jean Grey's Screen-Worn Knee-High Boots and thought, "Dr. Grey, operate on me!" For the fan who decided to part with $3,020 for those black leather bad boys, please give them back to Famke for the sequel–don't let our fantasies die!

BELTED WOLVERINE What would "X-Men" have been like if Logan's pants kept falling down? Like a bad issue of *What The–?!*, probably. That's where Wolverine's Screen-Worn Indian Head Belt came in. Visible in the scrap scenes in the bar and on the train, this silver-buckled beauty sold for $1,110.

WOLVERINE

20th Century Fox

THE FUTURE OF COMICS

GRADESCHOOL

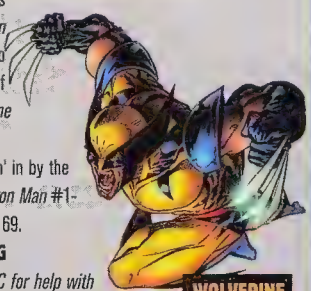
CGC books have exploded on the market, so we here at WIZARD debut in this issue a column devoted to breaking the latest CGC submission trends! Here comes the lowdown...

• X-Men, X-Men, X-Men! Everything about them is scorching hot. Books from *Giant-Size X-Men* #1 to *X-Men* #94–#100 to *Incredible Hulk* #181 (first Wolverine) to *Iron Fist* #14 (first Sabretooth) are raging. Also, *tons* of folks're submitting the Frank Miller-drawn first *Wolverine* mini-series.

• CGC reports that Marvel books from 1968 are comin' in by the barrelful: stuff like *Sub-Mariner* #1; *Captain Marvel* #1; *Iron Man* #1–#2; *Nick Fury, Agent of S.H.I.E.L.D.* #1 and *Dr. Strange* #169.

Next month–DC Silver Age! ■ **FLETCHER CHU-FONG**

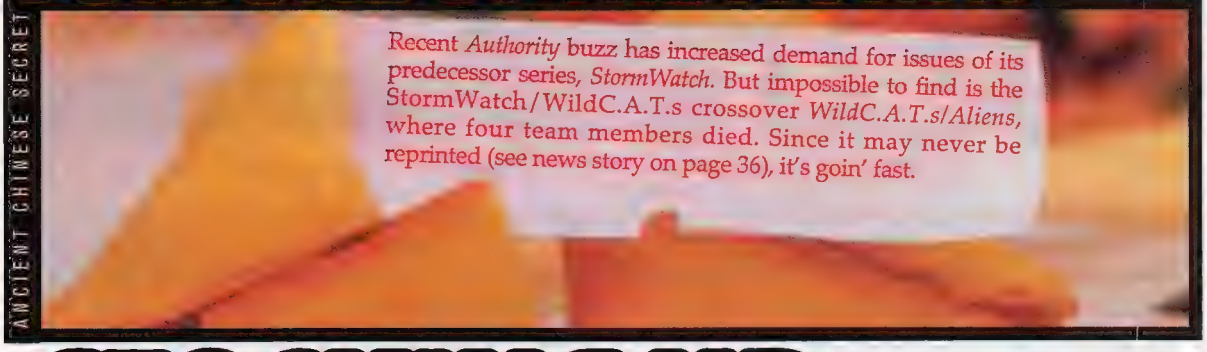
Special thanks to Steve Borock and Paul Litch of CGC for help with this story! For more on CGC, check out our link on www.wizardworld.com!


WOLVERINE

STARBURST
Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

PROGRESSIVE-ROCK GROUP DREAM THEATER FEATURED COVER ART BY DAVE MCKEAN ON THEIR LAST CD. THE BAND FIRST SAW IT WHEN IT APPEARED AS THE COVER TO THE *SANDMAN: BRIEF LIVES* TRADE PAPERBACK, AND THEN MCKEAN ADAPTED IT TO FIT THE STORY OF THEIR CD.

FORTUNE OF THE MONTH



Recent *Authority* buzz has increased demand for issues of its predecessor series, *StormWatch*. But impossible to find is the StormWatch/WildC.A.T.s crossover *WildC.A.T.s/Aliens*, where four team members died. Since it may never be reprinted (see news story on page 36), it's goin' fast.

STOCKING UP

The race is on! *Wizard* drafted three comic back-issue gladiators—comic writer Jeph Loeb, *Wizard* editor Brian Cunningham and comic fan extraordinaire David Massuda—and pitted them in a competition to see who can build the most valuable comic portfolio by issue #112. We've hooked each one of 'em up with a thousand bucks and given them one simple edict: Buy books that will make you money. Our contestants will make at least three transactions per month and never have more than 10 different titles in their portfolio (multiple copies of the same title are okay). So track our favorite fan as he butts heads with industry heavyweights. If Massuda wins, we'll hook him up with $250 of free merch. If he comes in second, he'll get $100 of swag. Dead last? Bupkiss. Be here every month to see who comes out on top. Three men enter, one man wins!

PARTICIPANTS	**DAVID MASSUDA** Comic Fan	**JEPH LOEB** Comic Creator	**BRIAN CUNNINGHAM** Wizard Editor
PORTFOLIO	Amazing Spider-Man (v. 1) #129, $150; Batman: LOTDK #120, $6; Punisher (v. 4) #1, $5; Batgirl #1, $5; Iron Fist #14, $100; 2 copies JSA #1, $7; Wolverine #125-#153 (all reg. ed. except #145 foil cover), $83.25; Batman: Harley Quinn, $8; Incredible Hulk (v. 1) #181, $525; 2 copies Spider-Man #1H, $150	GS X-Men #1, $550; 14 copies Punisher (v. 4) #1, $70; 10 copies Punisher (v. 4) #1A, $120; Superman #151, #154, $5; Batman: TLH #1-#13, down to $73; 20 copies Batgirl #1, $100; 11 copies Batgirl #2, up to $55; 10 copies Marvel Boy #1, $29.90; 6 copies each Iron Man (v. 3) #26-#28, up to $45; 3 copies Iron Man (v. 3) #29, $6.75	GS X-Men #1, $550; 10 copies Punisher (1st mini) #1-#5, $300; Punisher: WJ #1, up to $2; Punisher WZ #1, $2.50; 2 copies Punisher #1 (v. 4) #1, $10; Punisher (v. 4) #1A, $12; Punisher (v. 4) #1C, $4; 10 copies Red Star #1, $29.50; 10 copies Powers #1, $35; 4 copies Rising Stars #1, $40; RS #2, $5; 2 copies Powerpuff Girls #1, $10, PG #2, $3
TRANSACTIONS	**DROPPED** Wolverine (1st mini) #1-#4, $95; Giant-Size X-Men #1, $550; Detective Comics #359, $125 **ADDED** Wolverine #125-#153 (all reg. ed.), $83.25; Batman: Harley Quinn, $8; Incredible Hulk (v. 1) #181, $525; 2 copies Spider-Man #1H, $150; JSA #1, $3.50	**DROPPED** 2 copies Daredevil (v. 2) #1, $20; 4 copies Batman: Harley Quinn, $32 **ADDED** 3 copies each Iron Man (v. 3) #26-#28, $22.50; 10 copies Marvel Boy #1, $29.90	**DROPPED** Amazing Spider-Man (v. 1) #129, $150; Hulk (v. 1) #181, $525; **ADDED** GS X-Men #1, $550; Punisher War Zone #1, $2.50; 10 copies Red Star #1, $29.50; 10 copies Powers #1, $35; 4 copies Rising Stars #1, $40; RS #2, $5; 2 copies Powerpuff Girls #1, $10, Powerpuff Girls #2, $3
WHAT THEY'RE THINKING	"I think that *Hulk* #181 and *Wolverine* will attract new readers. And my friend Tom Maletta, owner of Best Comics, thinks *Harley* will go up with the new series in October. And *Spidey* #1H kicked ass on eBay."	"You snooze, you lose. *Daredevil* #1 is snoozing–see ya. Probably a good call on the *Harley Quinn* book 3 months ago, but now, it's flatlined–yawn. Saw movement on *IM* #26-#28 and think there's more room to grow, and *Marvel Boy* #1 at $2.99 is a steal."	"I'm getting totally hosed here. By rank amateurs, no less! Well, no more! I've blown my portfolio apart and am relying mostly on today's hot books like *The Red Star* and *Powerpuff Girls*. Now things start turning around. Uh, and this time I really mean it."
WHAT WE'RE THINKING	We *all* loved the X-Men movie, David–but will it spur back-issue X-prices? Yeah, it might. And David echoes Jeph Loeb's month-old move of snatchin' up *Harley Quinn*–the lady is hot, hot hot!	Jeph catapults into 1st place this month with big gains for *Batgirl* #2 and *Iron Man*. Picking up the white-hot *Marvel Boy* series looks to be shrewd. If only Jeph could let go of his own work–like *Long Halloween*–he might have this race in the bag.	He's getting totally hosed here. Going with multiple copies of buzz books could make the difference in a race where the leader only leads by about 50 bucks. Then again, he hasn't done anything right yet. Maybe we should've had another staffer do this…
CURRENT VALUE (*Last month's value)	$1,039.25 ($1,039.50*) (with 25 cents in the bank)	$1,054.65 ($1,025.75*) (with 85 cents in the bank)	$1003.50 ($1,003*)

MASSUDA PHOTO COURTESY OF MASSUDA, OTHERS BY PAUL SCHRAUB.

HOT 10 comics

WIZARD, by staying in touch with hundreds of retailers throughout the country, keeps a close eye on the country's hottest back issues. These are the books ringing the registers this month...

1 PUNISHER #1

WRITER: Garth Ennis
ARTISTS: Steve Dillon & Jimmy Palmiotti

Frankie-Baby is on the hot streak to end all hot streaks. This is his fourth time in the #1 position. And why not? As sales for the title continue to climb, psycho-loving readers across the globe are snatching up the debut issue. Is there any end in sight? Did the first Punisher craze die down after awhile? Um. Okay, it did, but it took a long, long time. And the quality of the book was rarely as high as it is now, with the former *Preacher* team on the case. Go, Frank! **LAST MONTH: 2**

2 BATGIRL #2

WRITERS: Kelley Puckett & Scott Peterson
ARTISTS: D. Scott & R. Campanella

Say hey now, why isn't *Batgirl* #1 on the list? Because everyone orders lots of #1's, silly, and then chops requests for the #2 issue in case no one bites. In this case we've got a recognizable brand logo slapped on a curvaceous, take-no-prisoners kinda chick. She could hurt you, pal. Oh, yes. All she'd have to do is wrap those powerful, muscular thighs around your head, and squeeze... it would hurt so good. Just like John Mellencamp used to sing about. He knew the score. **LAST MONTH: 3**

3 100 BULLETS #1

WRITER: Brian Azzarello
ARTIST: Eduardo Risso

Gack! With *Preacher* all but buried, what Vertigo comic is going to step up to the plate and shout, "Yes! We do ironic stories featuring sexual deviants and buckets of blood!" Slowly but surely, people are discovering that this book is gunning for the title, and they're flocking to it like perverts to a trenchcoat sale. **LAST MONTH: 8**

4 POWERPUFF GIRLS #1

WRITERS: Jennifer Moore and Sean Carolan
ARTIST: Phil Moy

The cutesy-cute heroines of the Cartoon Network show have made a successful leap onto the comics page. A healthy fan base from the show is keeping this book on the charts, and there's gotta be something said for the whole flippers-for-arms idea. They can really bitch-slap those bad guys, eh? Heh. **LAST MONTH: 5**

5 X-MEN #100

WRITER: Chris Claremont
ARTISTS: Leinil F. Yu and Mark Morales

The movie didn't suck, and that's only gonna help matters for anything X-branded. The 1-out-of-every-20 Yu variant cover is the real attraction here, though. Be prepared to shell out $20 bucks for this puppy. Or just steal your friend's copy. It's only wrong if you think it is, kids. **LAST MONTH: 1**

6 VAMPI PREVIEW

WRITER: David Conway
ARTIST: Kevin Lau

There's something mildly amusing about Vampirella getting revamped. You get it? Re*vamped*? Huh? This new spin on the busty lass took everyone by surprise, as A) It's only a preview book, and B) Busty lasses are a dime a dozen. Guess there's something to be said for the original vixens. **LAST MONTH: N.R. (NOT RATED)**

7 CAPTAIN MARVEL #2

WRITER: Peter David
ARTISTS: Chriscross and Anibal Rodriguez

Hope you've been paying attention. Another "Terrible Twos" situation, with people having little faith in David's revisiting an older hero. Result? Retailers didn't order many of the second installment. Nice work, fellas. Nice to know a crack sales team is out there taking care of business. **LAST MONTH: N.R.**

8 BATMAN: DARK VICTORY #1

WRITER: Jeph Loeb
ARTIST: Tim Sale

The series is now nearly complete, so those just beginning to lube their drawers over it need to head back and pick up what they've missed. A bang-up job from Loeb and Sale drew in new fans consistently, repeating the success of their previous collaboration, *Batman: The Long Halloween.* **LAST MONTH: N.R.**

9 MARVEL BOY #1

WRITER: Grant Morrison
ARTIST: J.G. Jones

Some bratty little puke gets the spotlight, and readers flock to it. Go figure. The interstellar adventures of Marvel Punk continue to pick up new readers, no doubt due in part to the fan following of Morrison. Lots of reorders coming in. But hold that phone! Remember what we've been saying about the issue #2 phenomenon... **LAST MONTH: 10**

10 THE RED STAR #1

WRITERS: C. Gossett and B. Kayl
ARTIST: Christian Gossett

Oh-ho, what's this? An Image title in the ranks? Yessir, this new title is getting a lot of "buzz" in comic circles. That means folks are digging it, even the pros. You know you've got a good thing going when your fellow creators are into your stuff. One to watch out for. **LAST MONTH: N.R.**

The reviews KEEP POURING IN from across the country...

..."CGC is the Future of Comic Book Collecting"

"clamoring for CGC books"

MARVEL COMICS GROUP
THE INCREDIBLE HULK
HE'S HERE! THE WORLD'S FIRST AND GREATEST CANADIAN SUPER HERO!
AND NOW WOLVERINE!
WENDIGO!

"I owe a lot of my prosperity to CGC"

"Currently I am active in both the sportscard and comic book marketplace and I have seen the overwhelming success and growth of a graded product. CGC is without a doubt the most welcome event to the collectibles market in the past 10 years and long overdue. I owe a lot of my prosperity to CGC. Thanks a lot!"

Steven Lauterbach • Investment Collectibles

"Action #1 has found a new home"

"As I expected, my books were accurately graded by CGC. But I was surprised at the quality presentation of their holder. It's light-weight but gives superb protection. I can see a book from all angles and the colors are clear. My Action #1 has found a new home in a CGC holder, and more of my collection will soon follow."

Daniel Kramer

"the future of comic book collecting"

"I am writing to tell you how pleased I am with your grading and service. I am confident that CGC certification will bring a renaissance in the hobby. From this first batch, I can tell you the grading is accurate and the holder is an excellent product. There is no doubt that CGC is the future of comic book collecting."

Jeff Hinds

"returned my initial payments twenty-fold"

[illegible]

"a tremendous impact"

[illegible]

"Mark Wilson • World's Finest Comics

"spared another horror story"

"Comic collecting has been a risky venture for the novice. Every collector I know has at least one horror story where thousands of dollars are lost and enthusiasm for the hobby is dampened. CGC levels the playing field and provides peace of mind for any collector who uses their service. I recently spent over $4,000 on a pair of books that I then sent to CGC. The result: both had been restored. The seller honored the return and I was spared another horror story. I could go on and on about why I like CGC but the bottom line is that they're going to make this hobby a lot safer and a lot more fun."

Mike Grissmer

CGC is an independent member of the Certified Collectibles Group of companies.

"shot in the arm"

[illegible]

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THE HIGHEST-ORDERED BOOKS FOR THE MONTH OF **JULY**

HITLIST

TOP50

The first numeral indicates current sales rank; the second, sales rank the previous month. Titles denoted with a (-) weren't available last month. Compiled by the *Wizard* price guide staff using data from Diamond Comic Distributors

1. (8) Spawn #100 (Todd McFarlane Productions/Image)
2. (*1*) Uncanny X-Men #384 (Marvel)
3. (*2*) X-Men #104 (Marvel)
4. (3) Wolverine #154 (Marvel)
5. (*5*) JLA #45 (DC)
6. (*6*) Avengers #32 (Marvel)
7. (*7*) Punisher #6 (Marvel)
8. (-) X-Men 2000 (Marvel)
9. (*9*) Daredevil #16 (Marvel)
10. (-) Universe X #O (Marvel)
11. (*10*) Fantastic Four #33 (Marvel)
12. (-) X Men Unlimited #28 (Marvel)
13. (-) Tomb Raider #7 (Top Cow/Image)
14. (*12*) Amazing Spider-Man #21 (Marvel)
15. (-) Rising Stars #9 (Top Cow/Image)
16. (*13*) Thor #27 (Marvel)
17. (*16*) Iron Man #32 (Marvel)
18. (*15*) Batman: Dark Victory #10 (DC)
19. (*14*) Peter Parker: Spider-Man #21 (Marvel)
20. (*18*) X-Force #106 (Marvel)
21. (*17*) Batman #581 (DC)
22. (22) Captain America #33 (Marvel)
23. (*20*) Detective Comics #748 (DC)
24. (*32*) Superman #160 (DC)
25. (*27*) Mutant X #23 (Marvel)
26. (-) Avengers Infinity #1 (Marvel)
27. (-) League of Extraordinary Gentlemen #6 (WildStorm/DC)
28. (*23*) Generation X #67 (Marvel)
29. (*24*) Batgirl #6 (DC)
30. (*41*) Action Comics #769 (DC)
31. (-) Sentry #1 (Marvel)
32. (11) Marvel Knights #3 (Marvel)
33. (*28*) Magneto: Dark Seduction #4 (Marvel)
34. (*48*) Adventures of Superman #582 (DC)
35. (*46*) Superman: The Man of Steel #104 (DC)
36. (*30*) Soul Saga #5 (Image)
37. (*31*) Cable #83 (Marvel)
38. (*35*) JSA #14 (DC)
39. (*39*) Preacher #65 (Vertigo/DC)
40. (*33*) X-Man #67 (Marvel)
41. (*34*) Nightwing #47 (DC)
42. (*38*) X-Men: Children of the Atom #6 (Marvel)
43. (*36*) Batman: Gotham Knights #7 (DC)
44. (*37*) Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #133 (DC)
45. (*47*) Thunderbolts #42 (Marvel)
46. (*43*) Witchblade #42 (Top Cow/Image)
47. (-) Darkchylde/Witchblade #1 (Top Cow/Image)
48. (*45*) Green Lantern #128 (DC)
49. (*49*) Gambit #20 (Marvel)
50. (*21*) Marvel Boy #2 (Marvel)

1. SPAWN TIMES SIX Six covers good! Five bad! Variants by the likes of Todd McFarlane, Alex Ross and Frank Miller make *Spawn* #100 the month's top book.

22. LUKEWARM CAP *Captain America* #33 featured writer Dan Jurgens' debut as penciler, yet this ish didn't budge from its No. 22 slot of last month. Guess the man who killed Superman doesn't have the draw he used to.

31. NEW KNIGHT From the *Inhumans* team of Paul Jenkins and Jae Lee, buzz on *Sentry* #1, the latest Marvel Knights book, is drunkenly high. Even though nobody can remember who Sentry is!

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

BOXER AND COMIC COLLECTOR MIKE TYSON HAS AN ORIGINAL DRAWING OF HIMSELF WITH THE X-MEN DRAWN BY ADAM KUBERT. THE ART WAS A GIFT FROM THE PRESIDENT OF SHOWTIME, AND WAS EVEN PICTURED IN *SPORTS ILLUSTRATED*.

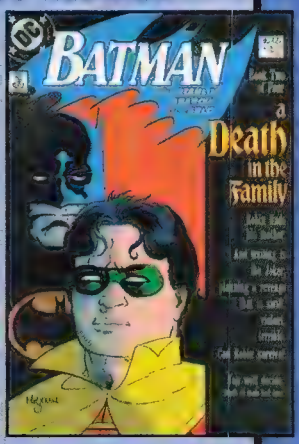
NEXT50

51. Incredible Hulk #18 (Marvel)
52. Flash #164 (DC)
53. X-Men: The Hidden Years #10 (Marvel)
54. Iron Man: Bad Blood #1 (Marvel)
Writer David Michelinie on whether he'd be willing to write *Iron Man* regularly again, should Marvel ask (He wrote two acclaimed *IM* runs in the late '70s and mid-'80s): "I'd have to talk to you from the intensive care ward of the hospital. I'd be in shock."
55. Inhumans #4 (Marvel)
56. Darkness #33 (Top Cow/Image)
57. Titans #19 (DC)
58. DC Two Thousand #1 (DC)
59. Tom Strong #9 (WildStorm/DC)
60. Authority #17 (WildStorm/DC)
61. Dark Crossings: Dark Cloud Overhead #2 (Image)
62. Young Justice #23 (DC)
63. Robin #80 (DC)
64. Spider-Girl #24 (Marvel)
65. Batman/Huntress: Cry For Blood #4 (DC)
66. Before The 4: Ben Grimm and Logan #3 (Marvel)
67. Catwoman #84 (DC)
68. Green Lantern Annual #9 (DC)
69. Batman: Outlaws #1 (DC)
70. Tellos #8 (Gorilla/Image)
71. Jenny Sparks: The Secret History of the Authority #2 (WildStorm/DC)
72. Birds of Prey #21 (DC)
73. Captain Marvel #9 (Marvel)
74. Deadpool #44 (Marvel)
75. Spider-Man: Death And Destiny #2 (Marvel)
76. Flash Annual #13 (DC)
77. Bishop: The Last X-Man #12 (Marvel)
78. Wildcats #13 (WildStorm/DC)
79. Promethea #9 (WildStorm/DC)
80. Star Wars #20 (Dark Horse)
81. Gen^{13} #55 (WildStorm/DC)
82. Titans Annual #1 (DC)
83. Star Wars: Jedi Council #2 (Dark Horse)
84. Hellcat #1 (Marvel)
85. E.V.E. Protomecha #6 (Image)
86. Before The Fantastic 4: Reed Richards #1 (Marvel)
87. Superman vs. Predator #3 (Dark Horse/DC)
88. Starman #69 (DC)
89. Spawn: The Dark Ages #17 (Todd McFarlane Productions/Image)
90. Batman: It's Joker Time #3 (DC)
91. Buffy the Vampire Slayer #23 (Dark Horse)
92. F5 #4 (Image)
93. Avataars: Covenant of the Shield #1 (Marvel)
94. Marvel: The Lost Generation #6 (Marvel)
95. Mystic #2 (CrossGen)
96. Superman: Last Son of Earth #1 (DC)
97. Supergirl #48 (DC)
98. KISS: Psycho Circus #32 (Todd McFarlane Productions/Image)
99. Legion Lost #5 (DC)
100. Vampi #1 (regular edition) (Harris)

100% GUARANTEED!

Weird Gimmick of the Month

DIAL "D" FOR DEATH



Everybody hated Robin.

Not the original Robin (who became Nightwing with the Teen Titans), Jason "Robin II" Todd, introduced in 1983, was a brat. Fans wrote tons of angry letters complaining. By 1988, even Batman editor Denny O'Neil hated him.

"The character had really developed a life of his own, he had evolved in his own direction," says O'Neil of Robin's metamorphosis from innocent do-gooder to snot-nosed punk.

DC's answer? Two 900 numbers in *Batman* #427, open for 35 hours only from the morning of September 15 to the following evening for fans to call and vote whether Robin should live or die.

The final tally was close—5,343 to 5,271 for death. It came in *Batman* #428, written by Jim Starlin and drawn by Jim Aparo.

"This was the first time anyone had attempted interactive publishing," O'Neil says. And probably the last—the call-in-a-character's-fate idea never really caught on, maybe due to the call's 50-cent charge. ■ **JESSE THOMPSON**

LOOKING BACK

What topped the charts TEN YEARS AGO?

1. Spider-Man #2 (Marvel) Todd McFarlane follows up one of the biggest comic sellers in history with a story pitting Spidey against the Lizard. Back when he could be bothered.

2. Uncanny X-Men #268 (Marvel) Jim Lee at the drawing board in his first ish as regualar penciler, Chris Claremont at the typewriter. . . and guest-starring Captain America! Daaaaamn.

3. Uncanny X-Men #267 (Marvel) Storm regresses back into childhood, befriends Gambit and combats the fairly ridiculous Nanny. (Note: that'd be the little egg-shaped villain, not Fran Drescher.)

4. Batman: Legends of the Dark Knight #11 (DC) A young Bats gets his toes wet in crime-fighting, and the aptly named psychoanalyst Hugo Strange researches his case history.

5. Batman #454 (DC) Batman finds himself pulled into a scheme by the Riddler to conjure up a demon. Bonus points for having Rids turn extra-psycho and threaten a baby.

6. Amazing Spider-Man #338 (Marvel) The Sinister Six makes a comeback and threatens the world with a dangerous poison. And a crazed soap fan stalks Mary Jane!

7. Amazing Spider-Man #339 (Marvel) The Sinister Six finale! Doc Ock betrays the team (duh), Spidey saves the ozone, and Mary Jane gets stalked some more by a crazed fan. Whatta day!

8. Wolverine #31 (Marvel) Japanese gangster Dai-Kumo develops a cure for cancer he wants to sell to the rich. Wolvie, aka Patch, ain't gonna sit down for that.

9. Wolverine #30 (Marvel) In Madripoor, Logan goes after the key members of the Lazarus Project, a winky cult/super-soldier factory. And he smacks an old lady. Hard.

10. Ghost Rider #5 (Marvel) Kids are getting weapons for the street, and both the Punisher and Ghost Rider are curious as to why. Could Flag-Smasher be behind it? Would we bring him up if we didn't have to?

CREATOR ABBREVIATIONS

Abell, Dusty ..... DAb
Abnett, Dan ..... DAt
Adams, Art ..... AAd
Adams, Michael ..... MAd
Adams, Neal ..... NAd
Adkins, Dan ..... DAd
Adlard, Charlie ..... CAd
Ahlquist, Mark ..... MAq
Alcatena ..... ALc
Balent, Jim ..... JBl
Banks, Darryl ..... DBk
Baron, Mike ..... MBo
Barr, Mike W. ..... MWb
Barreto, Eduardo ..... EBa
Batista, Chris ..... CBt
Benefiel, Scott ..... SBe
Benes, Ed ..... EBe
Benitez, Joe ..... JDe
Bridges, Vic ..... VBr
Bridwell, E. Nelson ..... EBr
Bright, Mark ..... MBr
Brigman, June ..... JBr
Broderick, Pat ..... PBr
Broome, John ..... JBm
Broome, Mat ..... MAt
Brown, Robert ..... RBw
Brozowsky, Joe ..... JBz
Brunner, Frank ..... FBr
Buccellato, Steve ..... SBc

ARTISTS

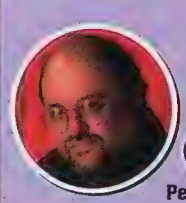
Allred, Laura ..... LAl
Allred, Michael ..... MAl
Altieri, Kevin ..... KAt
Altstaetter, Karl ..... KAl
Anderson, Brent ..... BAn
Anderson, Murphy ..... MAn
Andru, Ross ..... RAn
Aparo, Jim ..... JAp
Aragonés, Sergio ..... SAr
Arcudi, John ..... JAr
Augustyn, Brian ..... BAu
Austin, Terry ..... TAu
Ayers, Dick ..... DAy
Bachalo, Chris ..... CBc
Badger, Mark ..... MBd
Bagley, Mark ..... MBa
Bair, Michael ..... MBi
Baker, Kyle ..... KBa
Benjamin, Ryan ..... RBn
Bennett, Joe ..... JBe
Bennett, Richard ..... RBe
Bisley, Simon ..... SBi
Bissette, Stephen ..... SBs
Biukovic, Edwin ..... EBi
Blevins, Bret ..... BBl
Bogdanove, Jon ..... JBg
Bolland, Brian ..... BBo
Bolton, John ..... JBo
Bond, Phillip ..... PBo
Booth, Bret ..... BBt
Boring, Wayne ..... WBo
Boyd, Robert ..... RBo
Breeding, Brett ..... BBd
Brereton, Daniel ..... DBn
Brevoort, Tom ..... TBr
Breyfogle, Norm ..... NBr
Buckingham, Mark ..... MBu
Buckler, Rich ..... RBu
Buscema, John ..... JBu
Buscema, Sal ..... SBu
Busiek, Kurt ..... KBu
Butler, Jeff ..... JBt
Butler, Steve ..... SBt
Buzz ..... BUz
Byrd, Mitch ..... MBy
Byrne, John ..... JBy
Calafiore, Jim ..... JCf
Campbell, Eddie ..... ECa
Campbell, J. Scott ..... JCp
Campos, Marc ..... MCa
Capullo, Greg ..... GCp
Cardy, Nick ..... NCa
Carey, Mike ..... MCy
Carlin, Mike ..... MCr
Castellini, Claudio ..... CCa
Castrillo, Anthony ..... ACa
Cavalieri, Joey ..... JCf
Chadwick, Paul ..... PCh
Chang, Bernard ..... BCh
Charest, Travis ..... TCh
Chaykin, Howard ..... HCh
Chen, Sean ..... SCh
Chiarello, Mark ..... MCh
Chichester, Dan ..... Ch
Chiodo, Joe ..... JCd
Choi, Brandon ..... BCo
Churchill, Ian ..... ICh
Cirocco, Frank ..... FCi
Claremont, Chris CCl
Cockrum, Dave ..... DCo
Colan, Gene ..... GCo
Collins, Max ..... MCo
Collins, Mike ..... MCn
Collins, Nancy A. ..... NCo
Collins, Terry ..... TCo
Colon, Ernie ..... ECo
Conner, Amanda ..... ACo
Conte, Rob ..... RCo
Conway, Gerry ..... GCy
Cooper, Dave ..... DCp
Crilley, Mark ..... MCi
Cruz, Roger ..... RCr
Cullins, Paris ..... PCu
Daniel, Tony ..... TDa
Darrow, Geof ..... GDa
David, Peter ..... PDa
Davis, Alan ..... ADa
Davis, Dan ..... DDv
Davis, Malcolm ..... MDa
DeFalco, Tom ..... TDe
Delgado, Ricardo ..... RDe
DeMatteis, J.M. ..... JDm
Deodato, Jr., Mike ..... MDe
Deodato, Mike ..... MDd
DeVries, David ..... DDe
Dezago, Todd ..... TDg
DeZuniga, Tony ..... TDz
Dillon, Steve ..... SDn
Dini, Paul ..... PDi
Ditko, Steve ..... SDi
Dixon, Buzz ..... BDi
Dixon, Chuck ..... CDi
Dodson, Terry ..... TDo
Doran, Colleen ..... CDo
Dorkin, Evan ..... EDo
Dorman, Dave ..... DDo
Doucet, Julie ..... JDo
Dringenberg, Mike ..... MDr
Duffy, Jo ..... JDu
Dunn, Ben ..... BDn
Dwyer, Kieron ..... KDw
Eastman, Kevin ..... KEa
Eaton, Scot ..... SEa
Edginton, Ian ..... IEd
Egeland, Marty ..... MEg
Eisner, Will ..... WEi
Eldred, Tim ..... TEl
Ellis, Warren ..... WEl
Ellison, Harlan ..... HEl
Englehart, Steve ..... SEn
Ennis, Garth ..... GEn
Erskine, Gary ..... GEs
Erwin, Steve ..... SEr
Estes, John ..... JEs
Eury, Michael ..... MEu
Evanier, Mark ..... MEv
Everett, Bill ..... BEv
Ezquerra, Carlos ..... CEz
Fabry, Glenn ..... GFa
Farmer, Mark ..... MFa
Felche, Norman ..... NFe
Ferry, Pascual ..... PFe
Finch, David ..... DFn
Fingeroth, Danny ..... DFi
Fisher, Hart D. ..... HFi
Fleet, John Van ..... JFl
Fleisher, Michael ..... MFl
Fleming, Robert ..... RFl
Fox, Gardner ..... GFo
Fox, Greg ..... GFx
Fraga, Dan ..... DFr
Francheso ..... FRa
Frank, Gary ..... GFk
Freeman, George ..... GFn
Frenz, Ron ..... RFr
Friedman, Michael Jan ..... MFr
Friedrich, Mike ..... MFh
Fry III, James ..... JFr
Fujiwara, Kamui ..... KFu
Furman, Simon ..... SFu
Gaiman, Neil ..... NGa
Gammill, Kerry ..... KGu
Garney, Ron ..... RGa
Garzon, Carlos ..... CGa
Gascione, Phil ..... PGa
Geary, Rick ..... RGe
Geiger, Steve ..... SGg
Gerber, Steve ..... SGe
Gerhard ..... GEr
Gianni, Gary ..... GGi
Giarrano, Vince ..... VGi
Gibbons, Dave ..... DGb
Giddings, Noelle ..... NGi
Giffen, Keith ..... KGi
Gil, Armando ..... AGi
Gilbert, Michael T. ..... MGi
Gillis, Peter ..... PGi
Giordano, Dick ..... DGi
Glanzman, Sam ..... SGl
Goldberg, Stan ..... SGd
Golden, Michael ..... MGo
Goodwin, Archie ..... AGn
Gosier, Phil ..... PGs
Grainger, Sam ..... SGn
Grant, Alan ..... AGr
Grant, Steven ..... SGr
Grau, Peter ..... PGr
Gray, Mick ..... MGy
Green, Randy ..... RGr
Grell, Mike ..... MGr
Grey ..... GRe
Grindberg, Tom ..... TGg
Gross, Daerick ..... DGr
Gross, Paul ..... PGo
Gruenwald, Mark ..... MGn
Grummett, Tom ..... TGr
Guay, Rebecca ..... RGu
Guice, Jackson ..... JGu
Guichet, Yvel ..... YGu
Guinan, Paul ..... PGn
Gulacy, Paul ..... PGu
Gustovich, Mike ..... MGu
Ha, Gene ..... GHa
Haley, Matt ..... MHy
Hall, Bob ..... BHl
Hama, Larry ..... LHa
Hamm, Sam ..... SHa
Hamner, Cully ..... CHa
Hampton, Bo ..... BHa
Hampton, Scott ..... SHm
Haney, Bob ..... BHy
Hannigan, Ed ..... EHa
Hansen, Marc ..... MAh
Hanson, Neil ..... NHa
Harras, Bob ..... BHa
Harris, Jack C. ..... JHa
Harris, Mike ..... MHa
Harris, N. Steven ..... NSh
Harris, Tony ..... THa
Harrison, Lou ..... LHr
Harrison, Mark ..... MHn
Hartnell, Andy ..... AHa
Hartsoe, Everette ..... EHr
Hawkins, Matt ..... MHw
Hayes, Drew ..... DHa
Heath, Russ ..... RHe
Heck, Don ..... DHe
Hedden, Rich ..... RHd
Heisler, Mike ..... MHs
Helfer, Andrew ..... AHe
Hempel, Marc ..... MHp
Henry, Flint ..... FHy
Hernandez, Gilbert ..... GHe
Hernandez, Jaime ..... JHr
Hernandez, Michael ..... MHe
Herrera, Ben ..... BHe
Hester, Philip ..... PHe
Hewlet, Jamie ..... JHe
Higgin, John ..... JHi
Higgins, Michael ..... MHi
Hitch, Bryan ..... BHi
Hitchcock, Laura ..... LHi
Hoberg, Rick ..... RHo
Holcomb, Art ..... AHo
Holdredge, Jon ..... JHo
Hooper, Ken ..... KHo
Hoover, Dave ..... DHo
Hopgood, Kevin ..... KHp
Hotton, Brian ..... BHt
Hotz, Kyle ..... KHt
Howarth, Matt ..... MHo
Howell, Richard ..... RHw
Hudnall, James ..... JHu
Hughes, Adam ..... AHu
Hughes, Steven ..... SHu
Immonen, Stuart ..... SIm
Isabella, Tony ..... TIs
Isherwood, Geof ..... GIs
Ishida, Tatsuya ..... TIh
Jackson, Scott ..... SJa
Jacobs, Will ..... WJa
James, Joseph A. ..... JJm
Janes, Steve ..... SJo
Janke, Dennis ..... DJa
Janson, Klaus ..... KJa
Jarvinen, Kirk ..... KJv
Jenkins, Paul ..... PJe
Jennett, Stuart ..... SJe
Jensen, Jeff ..... JJe
Jimenez, Leonardo ..... LJi
Jimenez, Phil ..... PJi
Johnson, Dave ..... DJo
Johnson, Jeff ..... JJo
Johnson, Paul ..... PJe
Johnson, Rob ..... RJh
Johnson, Stewart ..... SJh
Jones, Bruce ..... BJo
Jones, Gerard ..... GJo
Jones, J.B. ..... JJn
Jones, Kelley ..... KJo
Jones, R.A. ..... RJo
Jones, Robert ..... RJn
Jurgens, Dan ..... DJu
Jusko, Joe ..... JJu
Justiniano, José ..... JJs
Kaluta, Michael Wm. ..... MKl
Kaminski, Len ..... LKa
Kane, Bob ..... BKa
Kane, Gil ..... GKa
Kanigher, Robert ..... RKa
Kaniuga, Trent ..... TKn
Kavanagh, Terry ..... TKa
Kayanan, Rafael ..... RKy
Kazaleh, Mike ..... MKz
Kelly, Joe ..... JKe
Kennedy, Cam ..... CKe
Keown, Dale ..... DKe
Kesel, Barbara ..... BKe
Kesel, Karl ..... KKe
Kieth, Sam ..... SKi
Kindierski, Lovern ..... LKi
Kirby, Jack ..... JKi
Kitson, Barry ..... BKi
Klein, Todd ..... TKl
Kolins, Scott ..... SKi
Korday, Igor ..... IKo
Krause, Peter ..... PKr
Kristiansen, Teddy H. ..... TKr
Kubert, Adam ..... AKu
Kubert, Andy ..... AKb
Kubert, Joe ..... JKu
Kupperberg, Alan ..... AKp
Kupperberg, Paul ..... PKu
Kwitney, Alisa ..... AKw
LaBan, Terry ..... TLa
Labat, Yancey ..... YLa
Lackey, Mike ..... MLc
Laguna, Fabio ..... FLa
Laird, Peter ..... PLa
Lanning, Andy ..... ALa
Lansdale, Joe R. ..... JLa
Lapham, David ..... DLp
LaQuinta, Robert ..... RLa
Lark, Michael ..... MLr
LaRocque, Greg ..... GLa
Larroca, Sal ..... SLr
Larsen, Erik ..... ELa
Lash, Batton ..... BMa
Lashley, Ken ..... KLs
Lawlis, Dan ..... DLa
Lawrence, Clifford ..... CLa
Lawrence, Mike D. ..... MLa
Layton, Bob ..... BLa
Lee, Pat ..... PAl
Lee, Paul ..... PAu
Leach, Rick ..... RLc
Lee, Elaine ..... ELe
Lee, Jae ..... JAl
Lee, Jim ..... JLe
Lee, Patrick ..... PAt
Lee, Scott ..... SCl
Lee, Stan ..... SLe
Lee, Tom ..... TLe
Leeke, Mike ..... MLo
Leialoha, Steve ..... SLa
Leon, John Paul ..... JLn
Leonard, Mike ..... MLn
Leonardi, Rick ..... RLe
Levins, Rick ..... RLv
Levitz, Paul ..... PLe
Lieber, Larry ..... LLe
Lieber, Steven ..... SLb
Liefeld, Rob ..... RLd
Lightle, Steve ..... SLi
Lim, Ron ..... RLi
Linsner, Joseph Michael ..... JLi
Lobdell, Scott ..... SLo
Locke, Vince ..... VLo
Loeb, Jeph ..... JLb
Loffficier, R.J.M. ..... RLo
López, José Luis García ..... JLz
Lopresti, Aaron ..... ALp
Luke, Eric ..... ELk
Lumley, Ralph ..... RLu
Lustbader, Erik ..... ELu
Luth, Tom ..... TLu
Lyle, Tom ..... TLy
Macchio, Ralph ..... RMa
Mack, David ..... DAv
Mackie, Howard ..... HMa
Macon, Darko ..... DAr
Madan, Dev ..... DVm
Madureira, Joe ..... JMd
Maggin, Elliot S. ..... EMa
Maguire, Kevin ..... KMa
Mahnke, Doug ..... DMn
Mahfood, Jim ..... JMf
Manabe, Jahji ..... JMa
Mandrake, Tom ..... TMc
Mangels, Andy ..... AMa
Manley, Mike ..... MMn
Manning, Russ ..... RMi
Mantlo, Bill ..... BMa
Marcos, Pablo ..... PMa
Marden, William ..... WMr
Marder, Larry ..... LAm
Marimon, Bill ..... BMn
Mariotte, Jeff ..... JMi
Marroto, Esteban ..... EMa
Marrs, Lee ..... LMr
Martinbrough, Shawn ..... SMa
Marz, Ron ..... RMz
Massengill, Nathan ..... NMa
Matsuda, Jeff ..... JMs
Matt, Joe ..... JMt
Maus, Bill ..... BMs
Mayerik, Val ..... VMa
Mayhew, Mike ..... MMa
Mays, Rick ..... RMy
Mazzucchelli, David ..... DMa
McAvennie, Mike ..... MMc
McCarthy, Brendon ..... BMr
McCloud, Scott ..... SMl
McCraw, Tom ..... TMw
McCrea, John ..... JMr
McDaniel, Scott ..... SMd
McDaniel, Walter ..... WMc
McDonnell, Luke ..... LMc
McDuffie, Dwayne ..... DMc
McEowan, Patrick ..... PMc
McFarlane, Todd ..... TMc
McGregor, Don ..... DMg
McGuinness, Ed ..... EMc
McKean, Dave ..... DMk
McKeever, Ted ..... TMk
McKenna, Mark ..... MCk
McKenzie, Roger ..... RMc
McKie, Angus ..... AMc
McKone, Mike ..... MMk
McLaughlin, Sean ..... SMc
McLaurin, Marc ..... MMl
McLeod, Bob ..... BMc
McMahon, Michael ..... MMh
McManus, Shawn ..... SMs
Medina, Angel ..... AMe
Medley, Linda ..... LMe
Mercadoocasio, Harvey ..... HMc
Messner-Loebs, William ..... WLo
Mhan, Pop ..... PMh
Michelinie, David ..... DMi
Mignola, Mike ..... MMi
Milgrom, Al ..... AMi
Millar, Mark ..... MMr
Miller, Frank ..... FMi
Miller, Mike S. ..... MMe
Miller, Steve ..... SMi

& WRITERS

NAMEGAME

CREATOR FUN 'N' GAMES

Match the comic creator with his celebrity look-alike!



1 Peter David

2 Kurt Busiek

3 Mark Waid

4 Greg Rucka

5 Kevin Smith

A Drew Carey

B Kevin Smith

C Francis Ford Coppola

D Wizard Staff Writer Mike Cotton

E Dennis Franz

Answers: 1. E 2. C 3. A 4. D 5. B

Carey, Franz, Coppola: Everett Collection. Other photos by Paul Schiraldi.

Milligan, Peter .....PMi
Mireault, Bernie .....BMr
Mishkin, Dan .....DMs
Moder, Lee .....LMd
Moebius .....MOe
Moeller, Christopher ...CMa
Moench, Doug .....DMo
Moldoff, Shelly .....SMo
Monks, Joseph M. .....JMk
Mooney, Jim .....JMo
Moore, Alan .....AMo
Moore, John Francis ...JFm
Moore, Terry .....TMr
Morales, Rags .....RMa
Moretti, Mark .....MMo
Morrison, Grant .....GMo
Morrow, Gray.....GMr
Motter, Dean .....DMt
Mougin, Lou .....LMo
Moy, Jeffrey .....JMy
Murray, Doug .....DMu
Muth, Jon J .....JMu
Mychaels, Marat .....MMy
Nagai, Go .....GNa
Nagayasu, Takumi .....TNg
Naifeh, Ted .....TNa
Napolitano, Nick .....NNa
Napton, Bob .....BNa
Nasser, Mike .....MNa
Nauck, Todd .....TNu
Neary, Paul .....PNe
Nelson .....NEl
Nelson, Mark A. .....MNl
Netzer, Mike .....MNe
Newell, Mindy .....MNw
Newton, Don .....DNe
Nichols, Art .....ANi
Nicieza, Fabian .....FNi
Nieves, Rafael .....RNi
Nocenti, Ann .....ANo
Nolan, Graham .....GNo
Nord, Cary.....CNr
Novick, Irv .....INo
Novin, Phyllis .....PNo
Nowlan, Kevin .....KNo
Nutman, Philip .....PNu
O'Barr, James .....JOb
O'Connel, Brian .....BOc
O'Connor, Thomas .....TOc
O'Donnell, Peter .....POd
O'Neil, Dennis .....DOn
O'Neil, Kevin .....KOn
Olivetti, Ariel .....AOl
Olliffe, Pat .....POl
One, Dark .....DOe
Ordway, Jerry.....JOr
Orlando, Joe .....JOd
Oshii, Mamoru .....MOs
Ostrander, John .....JOs
Otomo, Katsuhiro.....KOt
Ozkan, Tayyar.....TOz
Pace, Richard .....RPc
Pacella, Mark .....MPc
Pacheco, Carlos .....CPa
Paley, Nina .....NPa
Palmiotti, Jimmy .....JPl
Palmiotti, Peter .....PPa
Pander, Arnold .....APn
Pander, Jacob .....JPn
Paniccia, Mark .....MPn
Parker, Rick .....RPk
Parkhouse, Steve.....SPa
Parobeck, Mike .....MPr
Pascos, James .....JPc
Patterson, Bruce .....BPa
Pearson, Jason .....JPs
Pekar, Harvey .....HPe
Pelletier, Paul .....PPe
Pendleton, Linda .....LPe
Pennington, Mark .....MPe
Pérez, George .....GPe
Perlin, Don .....DPe
Peterson, Brandon .....BPe
Peterson, Jonathan .....JPo
Petrucha, Stefan .....SPr
Peyer, Tom .....TPe
Phillips, Sean .....SPh
Phipps, Rob .....RPh
Pini, Richard .....RPi
Pini, Wendy .....WPi
Platt, Stephen.....SPt
Pleece, Warren .....WPl
Ploog, Mike .....MPl
Plunkett, Kilian .....KPl
Pollack, Rachel .....RPo
Pollard, Keith .....KPo
Pollina, Adam.....APo
Pope, Paul .....PPo
Porazich, Faye .....FPe
Porter, Howard .....HPo
Portacio, Whilce.....WPo
Post, Jarrod .....JPo
Potter, Doug .....DPo
Potts, Carl.....CPo
Powell, Bob .....BPo
Powell, Martin .....MPo
Premiani, Bruce .....BPr
Prest, Christopher .....CPr
Prosser, Jerry.....JPr
Puckett, Kelley .....KPu
Pugh, Steve .....SPu
Pulido, Brian .....BPu
Purcell, Gordon .....GPu
Pusko, Martin .....MPa
Queen, Randy .....RQu
Quesada, Joe.....JQu
Raab, Ben.....BRb
Ramos, Humberto .....HRa
Randall, Barbara .....BRa
Randall, Ron .....RRu
Raney, Tom .....TRa
Ranson, Arthur .....ARa
Raskin, Jordan .....JRa
Rawson, Dave .....DRa
Raynor, Richard Piers ...RPr
Reeves-Stevens, Judith ...JRv
Renick, Jaxon .....JRn
Richardson, Mike.....MRi
Ricketts, Mark .....MRc
Ridgeway, John .....JRi
Rieber, John Ney .....JRe
Riley, John .....JRl
Rinaldi, Pino .....PRi
Robbins, Frank .....FRo
Robbins, Trina .....TRo
Roberts, Lon .....LRo
Robertson, Darick .....DRb
Robinson, James.....JRb
Rogers, Marshall .....MRo
Roman, Steve.....SRo
Romita, John.....JRo
Romita Jr., John .....JRj
Ross, Alex.....ARo
Ross, Dave .....DRo
Ross, John .....JRs
Ross, Luke .....LRs
Ross, Marshall .....MRs
Roth, Werner .....WRo
Royle, John .....JRy
Rozakis, Bob .....BRo
Rozum, John .....JRz
Rubi, Melvin .....MRu
Rubinstein, Joe .....JRu
Rude, Steve .....SRu
Russell, Craig P. .....PCr
Russell, Vince.....VRu
Ryan, Matt .....MRy
Ryan, Paul .....PRy
Ryder, Tom .....TRy
Sagara, Mike.....MSa
Sakai, Stan .....SSa
Sale, Tim .....TSa
Salick, Roger .....RSa
Saltares, Javier .....JSs
Sanderson, Peter.....PSa
Sant, Wayne Van .....WVa
Saviuk, Alex .....ASa
Schaffenberger, Kurt ...KSc
Schmitz, Mark .....MSm
Schrab, Rob .....RSc
Schultheiss, Matthias ...MSc
Schultz, Mark .....MSh
Scoffield, Sean .....SSc
Seagle, Steven T.....SSe
Sears, Bart .....BSe
Semeiks, Val .....VSe
Severin, Marie .....MSe
Shanower, Eric .....ESh
Sharp, Liam .....LSh
Shaw, Sean .....SSh
Sherman, James T. .....JSn
Sherman, Jim.....JSr
Shirow, Masamune .....MSr
Shoemaker, Terry .....TSh
Shooter, Jim .....JSh
Sibal, Jonathan .....JSb
Siegel, Jerry .....JSg
Sienkiewicz, Bill .....BSi
Silvestri, Eric .....ESi
Silvestri, Marc .....MSi
Sim, Dave .....DSi
Simon, Joe .....JOi
Simonson, Louise .....LSi
Simonson, Walt .....WSi
Simpson, Don.....DSs
Simpson, Howard .....HSi
Simpson, William .....WSm
Sinnott, Joe .....JSi
Skeates, Steve .....SSk
Skroce, Steve .....SSr
Skrones, Mary .....MSs
Slampyak, Ted.....TSl
Slifer, Roger .....RSl
Slott, Dan .....DSl
Small Jr., Louis .....LSm
Smith, Andy .....ASm
Smith, Beau .....BSt
Smith, Jeff .....JSm
Smith, Paul .....PSm
Smith, Tod .....TSm
Snejbjerg, Peter .....PSn
Sniegoski, Tom .....TSg
Snyder III, John K. .....JSy
Sparling, Jack .....JSp
Spiegelman, Art .....ASp
Spiegle, Dan .....DSp
Springer, Frank .....FSp
Sprouse, Chris .....CSp
St. Pierre, Joe.....JPi
Starlin, Jim .....JSt
Statema, John .....JSa
Staton, Joe .....JSo
Steacy, Ken .....KSt
Stephenson, Eric .....ESp
Steranko, Jim .....JSe
Stern, Roger .....RSt
Stern, Steve .....SSt
Stevens, Alec .....ASt
Stevens, Dave.....DSt
Strnad, Jan .....JSd
Stone, Chic .....CSt
Stone, Peter .....PSt
Stradley, Randy .....RSr
Strazewski, Len .....LSz
Stroman, Larry .....LSt
Sullivan, Lee .....LSu
Sutton, Tom .....TSu
Swan, Curt .....CSw
Takenaga, Francis .....FTa
Talbot, Bryan .....BTa
Tan, Billy .....BTn
Tanaka, Masashi .....MTk
Tanghal, Romeo .....RTa
Taylor, Mike .....MTa
Taylor, R.G. .....RTl
Templeton, Ty .....TTe
Tenney, Mark .....MTn
Tenney, Tom .....TTn
Texeira, Mark .....MTe
Thibert, Art .....ATh
Thibodeaux, Mike .....MTh
Thomas, Joel .....JTm
Thomas, Roy .....RTh
Thompson, Jill .....JTh
Tidwell, Terry .....TTi
Timm, Bruce .....BTi
Toth, Alex .....ATo
Trimpe, Herb .....HTr
Troug, Chas .....CTr
Truman, Timothy .....TTr
Tucci, Billy .....BTu
Turner, Dwayne .....DTu
Turner, Michael .....MTu
Tuska, George .....GTu
Tuttle, Todd .....TTu
Vachss, Andrew .....AVa
Vado, Dan .....DVa
Valentino, Jim .....JVa
Vance, Cindy .....CVa
Vance, James .....JVn
Vance, Steve .....SVa
VanHook, Kevin .....KVh
Veitch, Rick .....RVe
Veitch, Tom .....TVe
Velez Jr., Ivan .....IVe
Velluto, Sal .....SVe
Verheiden, Mark .....MVe
Vess, Charles .....CVe
Vigil, Tim .....TVi
Villagran, Ricardo .....RVi
Vince, Nick.....NVi
Von Eeden, Trevor .....TEe
Vosburg, Mike .....MVo
Wagner, John .....JWa
Wagner, Matt .....MWa
Wagner, Ron.....RWa
Waid, Mark .....MWd
Waldron, Lamar .....LWa
Walton, Rob .....RWl
Waltrip, Jason .....JWp
Waltrip, John.....JWt
Warner, Chris .....CWa
Warren, Adam .....AWa
Watkiss, John .....JWk
Weaver, Michael .....MWv
Weeks, Lee .....LWk
Wein, Len.....LWe
Weinstein, Howard .....HWe
Weiss, Alan .....AWe
Wenzel, David .....DWe
Wheatley, Mark.....MWh
Whigham, Rod .....RWh
Wiacek, Bob .....BWi
Wieringo, Mike .....MWr
Wildman, Andrew .....AWm
Williams, Anthony .....AWl
Williams, Chris .....CWi
Williams, David .....DWl
Williams, Kent .....KWi
Williamson, Al .....AWi
Willingham, Bill .....BWl
Wilshire, Mary .....MWi
Windsor-Smith, Barry ...BSm
Witten, Brian .....BWt
Woch, Stan .....SWo
Wolf, Chance .....CWl
Wolfe, Joe .....JWf
Wolfman, Marv .....MWo
Wood, Ashley .....AWo
Wood, Teri S. .....TWo
Wood, Wally .....WWo
Worley, Kate .....KWr
Wormer, Kirk Van .....KWo
Wozniak, Chris .....CWo
Wright, Gregory .....GWr
Wrightson, Bernie .....BWr
Wyman, M.C. .....MWy
Yaep, Chap .....CYa
Yale, Kim .....KYa
Yeates, Tom .....TYe
Yeowell, Steve .....SVe
Yu, Leinil Francis.....LYu
Zarate, Oscar .....OZa
Zeck, Mike .....MZe
Zulli, Michael.....MZu

ALL PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHRADER EXCEPT PEREZ PHOTO BY BRIAN SMITH.

TOP 10 CREATORS

FAN FAVORITES

These are the creators the fans crave. Creators whose name on a cover sells the book. *Wizard*'s "Top Ten Creators" lists are derived from a nationwide survey. Artists include pencilers and painters.

WRITERS

1. Garth Ennis
Punisher, Preacher

2. Chris Claremont
Uncanny X-Men, X-Men

3. Mark Millar
The Authority, Jenny Sparks

4. Alan Moore
America's Best Comics

5. Jeph Loeb
Superman, Batman: Dark Victory

6. J. Michael Straczynski
Rising Stars, Midnight Nation

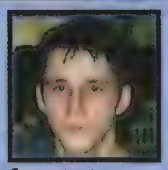
7. Warren Ellis
Planetary, Counter-X

8. Brian Azzarello
Hellblazer, 100 Bullets

9. Paul Jenkins
Peter Parker: Spider-Man

10. Mark Waid
JLA, Gatecrasher

ARTISTS



1. Ed McGuinness
Superman

2. Leinil F. Yu
X-Men

3. George Pérez
Avengers

4. Michael Turner
Fathom

5. Alex Ross
Universe X

6. Frank Quitely
The Authority

7. Adam Kubert
Uncanny X-Men

8. Steve Dillon
Punisher, Preacher

9. Tim Sale
Batman: Dark Victory

10. Keu Cha
Witchblade

SHOWS & CONS

These listings are as accurate as we can get 'em, but *Wizard* always recommends phoning ahead before you attend an event—show information sometimes changes after we go to press. With that in mind, it's time for all you comic-hungry hordes to go conventioneering!

CALIFORNIA

EVERY WED. & EVERY SAT., CITY OF INDUSTRY

FRANK & SON COLLECTIBLE WAREHOUSE, 19649 E. San Jose Ave. Over 150 dealer tables @ $40 each, FREE admission, FREE parking, Wed: 4pm-9:30pm & Sat: 10am-5pm. This show will feature a wide selection of comics, toys, action figures, Beanie Babies, Hot Wheels, non-sports cards, Star Wars, Star Trek, and much more. For info & directions call Frankie @ 909-444-7955 or 909-444-7956. Visit our Website @ www.fs-collectibles.com.

SEPTEMBER 17, LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES COMIC BOOK & SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION, Shrine Auditorium Expo Center, 700 West 32nd St. $6 admission, 10am-5pm. Appearing in person, 2pm-4pm: The Stars of The VIP Television Series: PAMELA ANDERSON, NATALIE RAITANO, MOLLY CULVER, SHAUN BAKER, LEAH LAIL, DUSTIN NGUYEN, ANGELLE BROOKS. The Stars will be autographing copies of the new V.I.P. Comic Book purchased at the convention. The V.I.P. Comic Book retails for $3 and the autograph from each star is FREE! Also featuring a dealer's room full of golden, silver age and new comic books, toys, action figures, movie memorabilia, Star Wars and Star Trek toys, non-sports and sports trading cards, Beanie Babies, Pokemon collectibles, Japanese Animation merchandise and Hong Kong movie videos. For more information contact Bruce Schwartz, 2319-A West Olive Ave. Burbank, CA 91506 or call 818-954-8432 or check Website at www.comicbookscifi.com.

CANADA

OCTOBER 1, EDMONTON ALBERTA,

LARGE RECORD, CD, COMIC, AND TOY FAIR Sunday, Edmonton Aviation Heritage Centre, 11410-Kingsway Avenue, Edmonton Alberta, Canada, home of the world's largest mall. 10am-4pm. Thousands of new and used records and CD's, plus music memorabilia. Thousands of collectors comics and toys. The Aviation Heritage Centre is minutes away from the world-famous West Edmonton Mall. E-mail newsreal@telusplanet.net for table rental inquiries, or call 780-487-3195.

ILLINOIS

SEPTEMBER 3 & 24, ORLAND PARK

COMICS AND MORE SHOW, Civic Center (one block west of LaGrange Rd. at 147th St.) 6ft tables @ $30 each, 2 tables @ $55, $1 admission, setup: 7:30am-9am, open: 9am-3pm. Comics, toys, non-sport and sports cards, Hot Wheels, Beanie Babies, action figures, memorabilia, die-cast, game cards, Magic tournament (Saturdays), sanctioned Star Wars tournament (Sundays). Contact: John Leary @ 708-423-1758.

SEPTEMBER 17, BRIDGEVIEW

COMICS AND MORE SHOW, Oremus Center, 2 blocks west of Harlem Ave @ 79th & Oketo. 8ft tables @ $35 each, $2 admission, setup: 7:30am-9am, open: 9am-3pm. Toys, comics, Pokemon, Diecast, Action Figures, Beanies, Starting Lineups, non-sport and sports cards. Contact: John Leary @ 708-423-1758.

SEPTEMBER 10, GURNEE

GURNEE MILLS COMIC & COLLECTIBLES SHOW. Holiday Inn, Gurnee 6161 W. Grand Ave. Across the street from Gurnee Mills. 30 tables: $40 for one, $30 for each extra, FREE admission, hours: 10am-3pm. Comics, toys, anime and much more. For more info: phone Jim at 847-336-9963, or e-mail: mortari_2000@yahoo.com. Visit our Website at www.geocities.com/mortari_2000 for even more great show listings. Don't forget the Waukegan show, 3rd Sunday of every month at Bertrand Bowl, Washington, St.

OCTOBER 1, BRIDGEVIEW

THE BRIDGEVIEW COMIC AND TOY SHOW PRESENTED BY Just Cuz Promotions Inc. Located at the Oremus Center, 79th and Oketo (2 blocks west of Harlem Avenue). 8ft dealer tables @ $25 each, $2 admission, dealer set up time is 8:30am, showtime: 10am-3pm. Find your favorite comics and toys here along with other great collectibles. For more information regarding the show or specific dealer information please contact Mike at 708-788-7276 or Jim at 815-886-8925.

MARYLAND

SEPTEMBER 24, GLEN BURNIE

COMIC BOOK AND NON-SPORTS CARD SHOW presented by Clandestine Comics. Holiday Inn, 6323 Ritchie Hwy (exit 3B off I695, make u-turn at first available intersection, hotel on the right) 30 tables @ $55 each, $2.50 admission, children under 7 are FREE, showtime: 11am-4pm. Dealers from around the region will be selling-trading-buying golden age to the present comics, CCG cards, MT:G, Pokemon, Japanese animation, original art and much more. For dealer information call Fred Edeson at 410-783-1157 or e-mail at clandestinecomic @hotmail.com

MASSACHUSETTS

SEPTEMBER 24, SOUTH ATTLEBORO

SOUTH ATTLEBORO NON-SPORT CARD, COMIC, TOY & COLLECTABLE SHOW, Knights of Columbus Hall, 304 Highland Ave. (Rte. 123), take route 95 to exit 3 or 3b, then Rte. 123W for 3 miles. 60 dealer tables @ $55 each, $3 admission, children under 16 FREE w/ adult (call for discount flyer), 10am-3pm. Hourly raffles. For more information contact Harry Martin @ 508-384-8491.

MICHIGAN

SEPTEMBER 17, LIVONIA

X-TRAVA-CON COMIC BOOK, NON-SPORTS CARD AND TOY SHOW, Knights of Columbus Hall, 19801 Farmington Rd. 55 tables @ $40 each in advance, $45 at show, $2 admission, children under six are FREE, 10am-4pm. Four door prizes. We feature comics, non-sports cards, collectible toys, action figures, card games, Beanie Babies, Anime, Pokemon plus much more. For more information contact Motor City Conventions @ 248-426-8059 or visit our Website @ motorcityconventions.com.

MINNESOTA

SEPT. 16-17, MINNEAPOLIS

MINNESOTA COMIC BOOK ASSOCIATION - MCBA FALLCON 2000, Thunderbird Hotel, 2201 East 78th St, Bloomington (Next to the Mall of America) $8 admission, good for both days, children 7 & under FREE! 10am-5pm on Saturday & Sunday. FallCon features 25,000 square feet of cool stuff and free entertainment! Over 50 Comic Book creators will be appearing live at FallCon! Come meet an amazing array of superstar national, regional & local comic book artists, writers and publishers,

including giants from the legendary silver age (including Carmine Infantino & Irwin Hasen)! FallCon also presents the finest dealers from all over the USA buying, trading & selling gold, silver, collectors & modern comic books, original comic book art, action figures & toys, non-sports cards, comic memorabilia, trade paperbacks & graphic novels, prints, Star Wars & Star Trek, Manga & Anime, Magic, Pokemon, videos & much more! SPECIAL EVENTS include a massive charity comic art & collectibles auction, extensive guest panels & Q&A sessions, fan club presenters, Anime room, professional art portfolio review, art lessons and much more TBA! FREE creator signatures, hundreds of door prizes & FREE gigantic MCBA grab bags to the first 500 attendees on Saturday & 250 on Sunday! Hundreds of door prizes! This convention is a lot of fun! For more information, directions, the guest list, or to get on our mailing list, call the MCBA 24 hour hotline @ 612-788-8191, email us at MNCBA@aol.com or visit our new Website at www.MNCBA.com!

NEW JERSEY

SEPTEMBER 10, CLIFTON

CLIFTON COMIC BOOK EXPO, Community Recreation Center, 1232 Main Ave.(Rt. 46 to Piaget Ave. to Main. From NYC the bus stops at the door). 30, 6ft tables @ $45 each, FREE admission! Northern NJ's longest running show! Comics from GA to present! No minimum bid auction @ 11:30. Trivia contest at 1:30 for over $100 in comics! Great dealers! Great deals! Past guests have included major writers and artists. Call JP @ 973-783-0608 for updates or email: pugprdctns@aol.com.

SEPT. 24 & OCT. 29, BORDENTOWN

New Jersey fans & collectors, here it is! Centrally located at the Bordentown Armory on Rt. 206, just 1/2-mile north of NJ Turnpike exit 7. 8ft tables @ $45 each, $2 admission, 9:30am-3:30pm. This monthly show features a nice selection of comics: Modern, Silver, Gold. Plus Pokemon, Beanies, non-sports and sports cards & more. Free comics, hourly door prizes, guest artists TBA, refreshments, plenty of free parking. What else ya need? For info 609-448-7585.

SEPTEMBER 17, WAYNE

WAYNE COMIC BOOK EXPO, Wayne Holiday Inn, Rt. 46 Service Rd. (Off Rt. 23 South near Willowbrook Mall). 30, 8ft tables @ $60 each, $2 admission (kids under six and 2nd parent FREE!), Easy, FREE parking. PUG BUCKS given out throughout the day as door prizes! Comics from GA to present at great prices! The East Coast's best and friendliest dealers without the NYC hassle! Two no minimum bid auctions! For updates call JP @ 973-783-0608 or email: pugprdctns@aol.com.

NEW YORK

SEPTEMBER 17 & OCTOBER 8, FREEPORT, LONG ISLAND

LONG ISLAND COMIC BOOK & COLLECTOR'S MARKET CONVENTION, (Formally located at the Rockville Center Holiday Inn). NEW LARGER LOCATION: Freeport Recreation Center, 130 East Merrick Rd. FREE admission, 10am-5pm. 50 dealers selling Gold, Silver and new comics, non-sport cards, Japanimation, t-shirts, posters, toys (old & new), movie & TV items, and other collectable merchandise. Long Island's longest running show. Don't miss this great show. Dealer inquiries welcome. For info call Cosmic Comics @ 516-763-1133.

SEPT. 13,17,27 & OCT. 11, 25, 29, BROOKLYN

COMIC BOOK & SPORTS CARD SHOW, Temple Hillel of Flatlands, 2164 Ralph Ave. (Ave. L) 40 dealer tables, FREE admission, FREE Parking, SUNDAY 9am-4pm, WEDNESDAY NIGHT 5:30pm-10pm. Comic Books, Sports Card, Non Sports, Toys, Action Figures & much more. For Dealer Table Information & directions, call 718-368-4096 or 718-449-2375 or email at CCC PROMOTIONS@aol.com

SEPTEMBER 15-16, NEW YORK

The BIG APPLE COMIC BOOK, ART & TOY SHOW, NY's greatest comic book convention! St. Paul Church Auditorium, Columbus (9th) Ave. & 60th St. $6 admission each day. Fri: 12pm-8pm, Sat:10am-7pm. Buying, selling & trading Gold, Silver & Modern age comics, toys, action figures, non-sports cards, comic art, movie posters, videos, anime, TV & movie memorobilia and more. Special guest CHAOS! Comics. Also appearing: Mark Waid. Plus, a Charlton Comics celebration featuring Dick Giordano (tent.), Joe Gill, Sam Glanzman, Joe Staton, Willie Franz, Dan Reed and more. For info call 718-326-2713 or visit our website @ www.ba2knet.

OCTOBER 22, BUFFALO

BUFFALOCON, Comicbook Convention, Buffalo Marriott, 1340 Millersport Highway, off I-290 in Amherst. Only $5 admission, 10am-5pm. This is the BIG ONE. The BEST one day show in Western New York. Many great artist guests. Dealers from many states and Canada. Great Giveaways! Anime, Monster mags and models, science fiction toys and more. Discount coupons available at Queen City Bookstore. Info: 1-716-833-6220.

NOVEMBER 10-12, NEW YORK

The 2nd NATIONAL COMIC BOOK, ART, TOY, SCI-FI & ANIME EXPO, NY's greatest comic book convention! The Metropolitan Pavillion, 125 W. 18th St.(btwn. 6th & 7th Ave.) Buying, selling & trading Gold, Silver & Modern age comics, toys, action figures, non-sports cards, comic art, movie posters, videos, anime, TV & movie memorobilia and more. Special guest artist: Carmine Infantino. Plus Erik Larsen and many more T.B.A. A Celebrity Appearance Event! For info call 718-326-2713 or visit our website @ www.ba2knet.

OHIO

SEPTEMBER 24, CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND COMIC BOOK & SCI-FI CONVENTION, Knight's Party Center (K of C Hall). Clevelands eastside, 29101 Euclid Ave (1/2 mile East of I-90 & exit 186). 32, 8ft dealer tables @ $50 each, $2 admission (children 6 and under FREE!), FREE parking, 10am-4pm. FREE comic to first 25 customers, hourly door prizes. 1,000s of Golden, Silver & Modern Age comics, action figures, books, videos & non-sport cards. For more information or to reserve dealer tables call Jeff Harper Productions @ 330-499-6056 or email JeffHarpro@aol.com

OCTOBER 1, CANTON

CANTON COMIC BOOK & SCI-FI CONVENTION, Four Points, Sheraton Inn, I-77 @ exit 109 (Everhard Rd). 28, 8ft dealer tables @ $50 each, $2 admission (children 6 and under FREE!), FREE parking, 10am-4pm. Free comic to first 25 customers, hourly door prizes. 1,000s of Golden, Silver & Modern Age comics, action figures, videos & non-sport cards. For more information or to reserve dealer tables call Jeff Harper Productions @ 330-499-6056 or email JeffHarpro@aol.com

OREGON

OCTOBER 15, PORTLAND

PORTLAND COMIC BOOK SHOW #55, Rose Quarter in Exhibit Hall of Memorial Coliseum. 165 tables @$80 each, $5 admission, 10am-5pm. Door prizes every 30 minutes Guests: Marvel writer: ROGER STERN; Astro City creator: KURT BUSIEK; Madman creator: MICHAEL ALLRED; Batman and Whiteout writer: GREG RUCKA; Harley Quinn artist: TERRY DODSON; White out artist: STEVE LEIBER; Barry Ween Boy Genius creator: JUDD WINICK and Oni Press. Second Genesis 503-788-1031.

PENNSYLVANIA

SEPTEMBER 17, PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA COMIC-CON, Holiday Inn, 10th St. & Packer Ave., exit 46 off I-76 or exit 15 off I-95 (follow signs to Packer). From NJ, take Walt Whitman Bridge to second exit after toll plaza (exit 46). 48 tables are 1/$65 or 2/$120, 10am-4 pm. Philadelphia's longest running all-comic show is also the best value as you get in for only $3 ($2 when you mention WIZARD), plus free parking! Besides comics from the 1940's to this week, our dealers (from 6 states) also will be selling, buying and trading non-sports cards, Japanimation videos, Pokemon and other related collectibles. Great giveaways every hour including $100 in show cash given away throughout the day good for any merchandise at the show! Special guests to be announced so visit your local comic shop for a flyer or call our hotline the weekend of the show for the latest update. Contact Derek Woywood of Collectors Comics at 856-782-0817.

TENNESSEE

SEPTEMBER 17, CLARKSVILLE

THE GREAT CLARKSVILLE COMIC BOOK SHOW returns, Holiday Inn, exit 4 off I-24, $2 admission (FREE w/ military ID), 10am-4pm. This show will feature comics from Golden age to present, Anime, toys, CCG, RPG, Pokemon, Magic the Gathering, DBZ, Gundam Wing and more. Tables set up for gaming, free promos. MAGIC THE GATHERING TOURNAMENT TYPE 2 @ 12 noon. Call COMIC CITY @ 615-883-9096 or 615-262-0908 or visit our website @ www.comiccity.homepage.com

OCTOBER 22, NASHVILLE

MUSIC CITY CON returns, Days Inn Airport on Briley Parkway. $2 admission, 9-4pm. Guests sinclude PAUL JENKINS (writer Witchblade), JEFF PITTERILLI (Crow), ERIC POWELL (Angel), ROBERT BROWN (Evil Erine), JASON ALEXANDER (Empty Zone). Tons more guests TBA. Plus be on TV w/ Chiller Cinema, screening of the original phantom of the opera on 16 mil. Comics, toys anime, CCG, Gundam and more. Call COMIC CITY @ 615-883-9096 or 615-262-0908 or visit our website @ www.comiccity.homepage.com

TEXAS

OCTOBER 7, LIVE OAK, SAN ANTONIO

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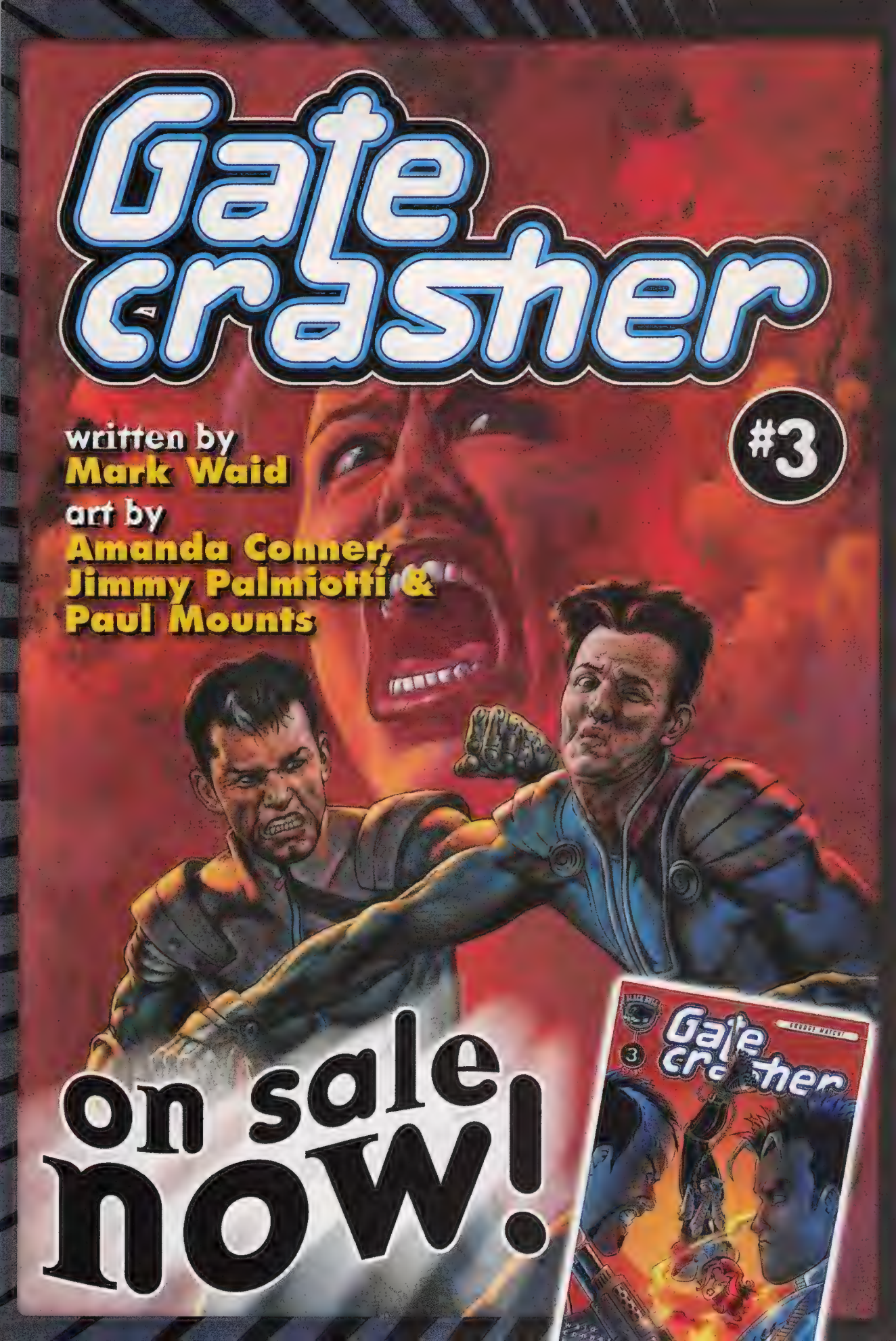
Gate crasher

#3

written by
Mark Waid
art by
Amanda Conner, Jimmy Palmiotti & Paul Mounts



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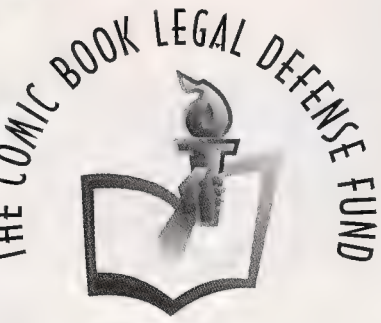

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C.B.I.Q.

YOU THINK YOU'RE SO SMART...

Hey there, linear reader! Looks like you're just about done with WIZARD's all-star, pampered celebrity issue. Nothing like hearing about a bunch of people who are richer, better-looking and cooler than you to get your day going. So why stop now? We've cooked up a little quiz based on Hollywood's various treatments of our beloved funny book characters. And we'll grade ya against the most annoying distractions in a movie theater. The higher your score, the worse the annoyance. Go nuts.

SCORE	RANK
0	*Butter-flavored topping splattered on your khakis*
1-4	*Paying $3.50 for six ounces of soda*
5-8	*Those punk kids behind you who won't shut up*
9	*Those punk kids beating you silly for shoosh-ing them*

ANSWERS

Candy-asses can peek on page 206 if this is too tough...

1 Michelle Pfeiffer was the catalyst for many soiled bed sheets as Catwoman in 1992's "Batman Returns." Who was supposed to don the latex before blowing it by getting knocked up?

a) Annette Bening
b) Madonna
c) Julia Roberts
d) Rosie O'Donnell. Ever see "Exit to Eden?" Hot-cha!

2 Dolph Lundgren fared about as well as a chocolate subway token in 1989's "Punisher" feature film. Who were Frank's main adversaries in the flick?

a) The Italian Mafia
b) The Japanese Mafia
c) The Greek Mafia
d) The Girl Scout Troop 227

3 Wacko, know-nothing producer Jon Peters demanded Kevin Smith add what beast to menace Brainiac in the now-defunct script for "Superman Lives?"

a) Lions
b) Snakes
c) Polar bears
d) Snarf. Peters owed him a solid.

4 "Barb Wire" was a colossal embarrassment for everyone involved, but that won't stop us from asking a question about it. What was the name of Pamela Anderson's/Barb's nightclub in the movie?

a) The Kickback
b) Exit 69
c) Hammerhead
d) Cheers

5 Jim Carrey followed up his tremendous success with "Ace Ventura" by taking a (literal) spin as Dark Horse's "The Mask." What was the name of Jim's dog in the film?

a) Scruff
b) Milo
c) Snuffles
d) Snuggles, the Dog So Cute He Induced Vomiting

6 Who can forget Marvel's most embarrassing movie (of 1986, anyway), "Howard the Duck?" The plump little quacker's escapades were, amazingly enough, produced by what filmmaking legend?

a) George Lucas
b) Steven Spielberg
c) Francis Ford Coppola
d) Akira Kurosawa. It's not that it's bad, you just didn't get it.

7 The Hulk TV show was revived late in the '80s as a series of TV movies, ending with the depressing 1990 finale, "The Death of the Incredible Hulk." How did the big green doofus wind up biting it?

a) Drowning
b) Falling from a helicopter
c) Being blown up
d) Pop rocks and soda. And he was warned, damn it!

8 1978's "Superman" with Christopher Reeve ranks as one of the best comic adaptations of all time. One scene edited from the film features which two Superman alumni riding on the train a young Clark Kent outruns?

a) Kirk Alyn and Noel Neill (Superman and Lois from the original 1940s serials)
b) Jerry Siegel and Joe Shuster
c) Barbara and Franklin Reeve, Christopher's real parents
d) John Byrne and his eraser

9 1992's "Captain America" had almost nothing going for it, it stunk that bad. What was the best part of this putrid flick?

a) Cap's latex ears
b) To save Washington, D.C, Cap actually kicked a rocket he was strapped on to
c) The Italian Red Skull
d) When your cheap VCR shredded the tape like confetti.

Barb Wire: Foto Fantasies

MORTOFTHEMONTH

GUESS THE NAME AND ORIGIN OF THIS MONTH'S LOSER

A) Vincent Valeron was a typical outstanding high-school athlete, but when a strange meteor fell to Earth during his homecoming game, he gained superpowers and decided to play at the next level as the superhero **THE VICTOR!**

B) On a distant planet in the Andromeda system, a young man named Von Voltar gained superpowers during an alien attack, which wiped out his world and forced him to wander the galaxy, helping aid other civilizations as the cosmic hero **VALIANT!**

C) Movie producer Jack Verner volunteered his chauffeur Van Vanucci to undergo a special hypnotic treatment that granted him superpowers whenever he yelled the name of his hero, Errol Flynn, allowing him to become **THE VANQUISHER!**

D) Vance Vanderbilt possessed the mutant ability to become perfect in any endeavor he took up, but when he became bored being perfect at everything, he took up crime for the excitement as the master criminal **THE VIRTUOSO!**

MORTOMETER

Answer on page 206

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WIZARD

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BULLPEN LOOK BEHIND THE CURTAIN

X-MOVIE MANIA!

The WIZARD gang received an early X-mas gift on July 13.

A group of staffers was invited to the Big Bad Apple by the fine folks at Marvel Comics to sit in on an advance screening of the "X-Men" movie before it opened up in theaters nationwide.

And hanging with the Marvel crew made an awesome experience all the more enjoyable. Every in-joke in the movie ("What would you rather wear–yellow spandex?") became all the more hilarious because *everyone* in that theater grew up reading X-Men comics.

THE WAITING GAME Comic fans have waited so long for a good movie, we didn't mind waiting a little longer.

Associate Editor Justin Jones, who sat right behind current X-scribe Chris Claremont, said: "Every time something cool happened on screen, I wanted to ask Chris what he thought. But then again, I didn't want to seem *too* fanboyish."

Mingling with Claremont and other comic pros like Joe Quesada, Joe Jusko and Scott Lobdell was a total blast and meant plenty of after-screening conversation, like "Who was that blue-haired kid?" and "Was that really Pyro?" and "Who's gonna show up in the sequel?"

Ah yes...the sequel. With "X-Men" scoring a bona fide hit for Fox, there's bound to be more X-flicks.

Maybe Bryan Singer could use a couple of dozen mildly geeky extras...

TOP 10 Ways The Fall TV Schedule Would Be Different With Superheroes

10. "Ally McBeast"
9. "Everybody Loves Rainmaker"
8. "Tic-Tac-Doom"
7. "Late Night with Conan... just Conan"
6. "Win Ben Grimm's Money"
5. "Touched by an Archangel"
4. "ROM: Unplugged"
3. "Suddenly Susan Storm"
2. "Who Wants to be a Symbiote?"
1. "M.O.D.O.K. in the Middle"

C.B.I.Q. answers...

1.A 2.B 3.C 4.C 5.B 6.A 7.B 8.A 9.D

MORT C. The Vanquisher, who first appeared in *Blue Devil* #12

A SNEAK PEEK

COMING RIGHT UP

WEB OF SPIDER-MAN

Get the lowdown on Hollywood's biggest wall-crawler. WIZARD fills you in on everything you need to know about the upcoming "Spider-Man" feature film!

NEXT MONTH IN WIZARD #110

MURDER, INC.

Four of today's hottest creators–Brian Azzarello, Greg Rucka, Brian Michael Bendis and Ed Brubaker–prove that crime does pay in the comic book industry. By writing crime stories, that is.

HALLOWEEN HOO-HAH!

It's that time of the year again, when the WIZARD staff gets together, cracks open some cold ones and picks the winners of our annual Halloween Costume Contest! Totally scary stuff!

COMICS ON THE INTERNET!

Comics' hitmakers are tapping this explosive form of publishing! From Michael Turner to Judd Winick to Stan Lee, check out who's flocking to the Web to showcase their new projects!

WIZARD #110

On sale September 27 in comic shops
On sale October 10 everywhere

ONE OF THE DAMNED

Andy Serwin
COPY EDITOR

WHY WE PAY HIM "I edit copy, assign stories and run around like a basket case."

BEST OUT-OF-CONTEXT QUOTE "Doug's got it up, and I'm gonna check it out!" (In reference to "IN" POWER and TOYFARE editor Doug Goldstein showing a Powerpuff Girls pic on his computer.)

MOST BIZARRE WIZARD MOMENT "Working at a con in New York City, some 6'3" guy dressed up like Catwoman came up to the booth, with a whip and everything. I actually managed to hold my laughter in until after he left."

EATIN' CROW "The Black Crowes are far and away my favorite band, but I never got the chance to see them live. When I finally did a while back, I went sober so I'd remember it."

HAIL HAWKEYE! "Easily my favorite superhero! A bunch of people here at WIZARD commissioned George Pérez to sketch this for my birthday."

PEACEMAKER "During a fight at my house in college, I grabbed a baseball bat to break things up, but wound up hitting myself in the head."

AVENGERS ASSEMBLE! "My first *Avengers* comic ever, was #175. I almost died trying to save it when it almost flew out of the back of our station wagon–the rear door opened when my dad was doing 70 mph on Route 80!"

SERWIN CLAUS "I bought my girlfriend a bitchin' stereo for her graduation, and we'd only been dating a couple of months. I'm a generous guy, what can I say?"

ANDY

BALL HANDLER "One summer when I was unemployed, I taught myself to juggle 'cuz I was so bored. Hey, it beat working, and soon I'll be ready for chainsaws!"

BAG MAN "I used to work as a printer with my dad and I would get so covered in grease and ink, he'd make me ride home in a garbage bag every night."

COLLECT CALL "One bad day at my former newspaper job, I was sick of talking to an irate parent, so I smashed my phone in the middle of the newsroom."

COMICS "*Avengers*, *Thor*, *Iron Man*, *Top 10* and *Powers* are easily my favorites right now."

CLAM UP "I got the nickname Clam in high school because I started growing a beard. You make the connection."

MILLER TIME! "During my last couple of weeks at my horrid video store job, I started drinking 40s at work. Just for fun!"

OH, POOP! "Three in the morning, I'm driving home from the bar. I must...relieve myself...on the side of the road. When I'm done, I realize my car door is locked! Thankfully, one of my passenger doors was open. I almost crapped myself...again!"

Photo by Paul Schiraldi

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TOYFARE #39

TOYFARE picks just which characters should pop up in the next wave of Simpsons figures and gives you a "Sneak Peek" at the upcoming X-Men animated toys from Toy Biz. Plus, check out the new WWF figures from JAKKS Pacific, including the first-ever Rikishi figure!

On sale September 13 in comic shops
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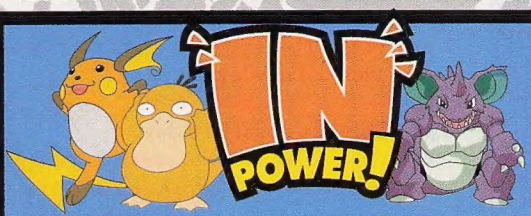


"IN" POWER #7

Visit the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY in our "You Are There!" feature! Check out our cool cover and insert poster featuring Britney Spears! And take a look at the upcoming football season and all your favorite NFL stars!

On sale September 13 in comic shops
On sale September 26 everywhere

INQUEST GAMER #66

Pick up plenty of info about gaming on the Web in this Internet-themed issue! The gamer's guide to the Internet! An online "Magic" game! Plus, the future of RPGs and a special "Invasion" preview!

On sale September 6 in comic shops
On sale September 19 everywhere

THE HOTSEAT

This Month Featuring:

JASON MEWES

WIZARD: When you play Jay in Kevin Smith's movies, things get pretty crazy. What would you have been like in the original Star Wars trilogy?

MEWES: Man, I'd make up my own character. I'd be like Luke's sidekick but I'd have more of the "Force." I'd be teaching him sh--, like a younger **Obi-Wan**. There'd be some sh-- going down.

So, who's your favorite actress in Hollywood?

Jim Carrey.

What about *female* actresses?

For acting? I don't know. For looks?

Angelina Jolie.

She's a hottie...

Hell yeah, she is sexy. I'd stick with her.

I'd stick on her.

Whooooooaaaa.

Okay, okay...what about superpowers...which ones do you want to have?

I'd be the same as **Superman**—super-strength, super-speed, be able to fly, X-ray vision—just about his powers. Maybe Green Lantern. His ring's pretty phat. He can make up anything he thinks of. That's cool sh--.

You like to curse...what's your favorite bad word?

I don't know...I like 'em all, man.

How many do you use a day?

I probably use about 30 a day.

What's pissed you off the most? Like the worst thing that ever happened to you...

I was thrown in jail for a stolen car I didn't know was stolen. I was in jail for five days. That sucked.

I bet...but how much do you smoke a day?

Like weed?

I ain't talking cigarettes!

I don't smoke anymore...I'm on probation.

C'mon. Are you high right now?

[*pause*] No...

Tell me a story about Kevin Smith know one else knows.

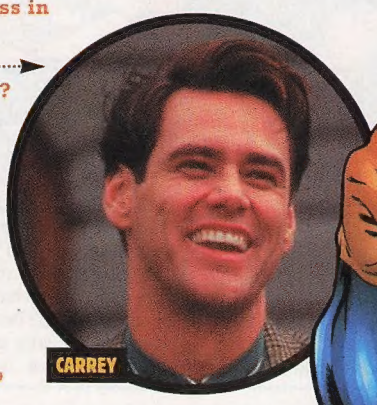
I don't think he'd like that.

[*laughs*]

Come on, give me something.

Nah...he'd get pissed.

■ MIKE COTTON

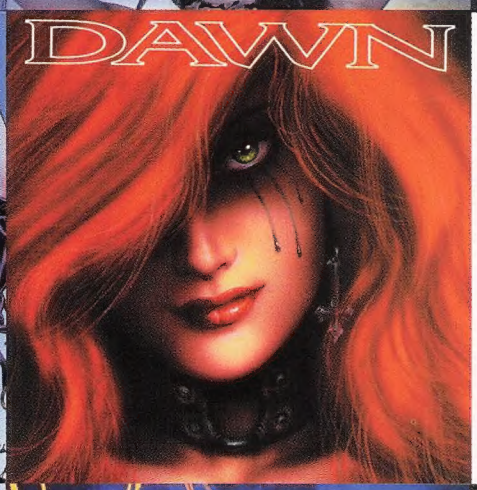


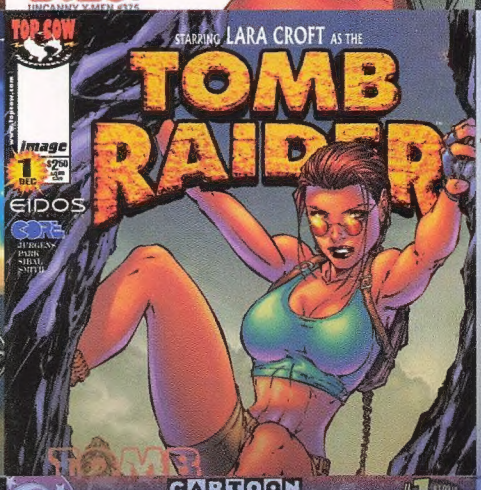
Jason Mewes, Kevin Smith: Paul Schiraldi; Jim Carrey: Melinda Sue Gordon; Obi-Wan Kenobi: ®, ™ & © 1997 Lucasfilm Ltd.

STARBURST Celebrity comic facts from behind the curtain

WHEN ASKED DURING A RECENT INTERVIEW IF HE WOULD CONSIDER TAKING ON THE ROLE OF BATMAN IN A SEQUEL, "ANGEL" STAR DAVID BOREANAZ SAID, "THE DARK KNIGHT [WOULD] DEFINITELY BE A COOL PART TO PLAY." HMM...

bid on this, fanboy.





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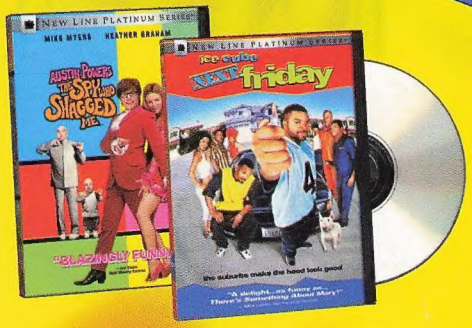

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